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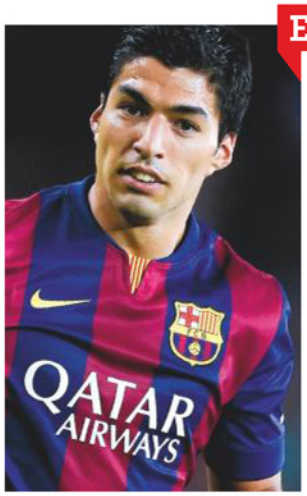

EXCLUSIVE

LUIS SUAREZ

'I thought my career was over'

GAME OF DRONES

Eyewitness accounts of Serbia–Albania chaos

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Biography

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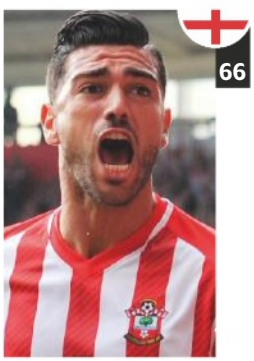

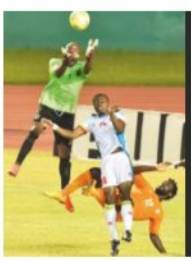

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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

SERBIA...supporters force open the fencing and confront riot police during the ill-fated Euro 2016 qualifier against Albania at the Partizan stadium in Belgrade

ARGENTINA...Cristian Erbes of Boca Juniors slips on a rain-soaked pitch during the *Superclasico* against River Plate

BRAZIL...cheerleaders of local side Bahia take a rest before their league game against Chapecoense

EGYPT...a police officer and an Egyptian fan attempt to put out a fire in the stands during the African Nations Cup match against Botswana

TURKEY...Mehmet Topal of Turkey brings down Vaclav Pilar of the Czech Republic during their Euro 2016 qualifier

ALGERIA...fans shine a laser prior to their African Nations Cup qualifier against Malawi

ENGLAND...despite scoring four goals in the game, Manchester City's Sergio Aguero fails with a volley from the rebound after missing a penalty against Tottenham Hotspur

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

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FROM THE EDITOR

Modern football churns out more statistics than we know what to do with. Most are worthless, many can be used to back both sides of an argument. But the one stat that cannot be argued with is goals scored. Goals are the currency that define our game, so the annual ESM Golden Shoe award for the top European league goalscorer is a significant milestone in the football calendar.

Luis Suarez, the co-winner of the 2014 award with Cristiano Ronaldo, was so keen to receive his award that he contacted us at the end of last season to make arrangements. Unfortunately, events this summer overtook him and us, preventing any presentation from taking place until the middle of October.

> Goals are the currency that define our game, so the annual ESM Golden Shoe award is a milestone in the football calendar

The ESM Golden Shoe is the first of a number of individual awards that will be announced over the coming weeks. Such awards will always divide opinion (see Jonathan Wilson, page 54) but we're a broad church at *World Soccer*, not least because our World Player award will be debated, discussed and announced at the end of the year, along with our World Team and World Manager awards.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 Luis Suarez collects the ESM Golden Shoe ..... page 24
2 Defeats for Spain, Holland and Germany in Euro qualifiers ..... page 92
3 Serbia-Albania game suspended amid chaotic scenes ..... page 30
4 Ebola fears hit African Nations Cup ..... page 38
5 FIFA to publish Garcia findings but not whole report ..... page 8
6 Roma angered by referee in Juventus defeat ..... page 40
7 Rooney edges closer to England scoring record ..... page 20
8 Holders Nigeria suffer Nations Cup setback ..... page 91
9 Premier League overseas games back on the agenda ..... page 13
10 Schalke sack Keller and turn to Di Matteo ..... page 35

SWITZERLAND

Guarded...not all of Garcia's report will be seen

FIFA will not publish Garcia's full report

FIFA will not publish American lawyer Michael Garcia's full report into possible corruption during the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

In an interview published on the FIFA website, ethics judge Hans-Joachim Eckert said that legal reasons made it "impossible" to make the report fully public.

Instead, Eckert is expected to publish a statement containing an overview of Garcia's findings by mid-November.

"The statement will contain an overview of the investigation report, a summary of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report, as well as a brief evaluation of the same," said Eckert.

Garcia is reported to have promised confidentiality to witnesses interviewed during his investigations, but FIFA has still faced calls for the full report to be published, with the names of witnesses redacted (edited out).

Full publication has been demanded by a number of FIFA ExCo members, including UEFA president Michel Platini and Sunil Gulati of the USA, along with Transparency International. However, FIFA president Sepp Blatter claimed that, at the last ExCo meeting, none of the members who took part in the controversial 2010 vote requested discussion of the Garcia report.

"Rubbish. My assistants do the everyday duties for me so that I can concentrate on the big picture"

After Holland's disastrous start to the Euro 2016 qualifying process, coach Guus Hiddink denies a story in *Algemeen Dagblad* that he is considering stepping down

SPAIN

Del Bosque to step down in 2016

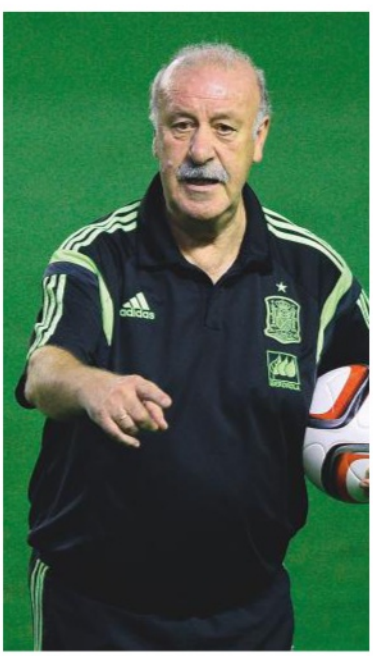
Happier times...Spain after winning Euro 2012

Vicente Del Bosque plans to step down as Spain coach after the 2016 European Championship finals in France.

"In life, you cannot be absolutely sure about anything, but it is my intention to continue until France 2016 and then leave," he said.

Del Bosque, aged 63, succeeded Luis Aragones in 2008 and guided Spain to success in the 2010 World Cup and 2012 European Championship. After Spain's disappointing 2014 World Cup performance, he vowed to carry on and see out his contract.

Del Bosque added: "The federation needs to prepare a gentle transition. I will stay close to football and the federation."



Stepping down...Del Bosque will go in two years

HEROES & VILLAINS

Show of support...Hungary fans

HUNGARY

After their Euro 2016 qualifying defeat at home to Northern Ireland, the national squad bought the match tickets for the 1,200 fans who travelled to the away game against Romania in Bucharest.

STEFAN KUTSCHKE

When Borussia Monchengladbach's Christoph Kramer was booked for a foul, the Paderborn striker explained to the ref that he had fallen without Kramer touching him and the official rescinded the yellow card.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Scored three La Liga hat-tricks in 15 days to equal the record of 22 set by Alfredo Di Stefano and Telmo Zarra.

JONAS GUTIERREZ

The Newcastle United and Argentina defender, who is battling testicular cancer, completed all 26.2 miles of the Buenos Aires Marathon to help raise money for the Foundation for Research, Teaching and Cancer Prevention charity.

Marathon man...Gutierrez (left)

GANBOLD BUYANNEMEKH

The Mongolian FA president was banned for five years by FIFA for "soliciting and accepting" bribes from former FIFA executive Mohamed Bin Hammam.

LEANDRO DAMIAO

The Santos striker was facing a six-game suspension after trying to dupe the referee during a league match against Criciuma by tugging his own shirt while trying to escape his marker.

Caught...Damiao pulled his own shirt

ZVEZDAN TERZIC

Red Star Belgrade's acting general secretary was banned for six months for attacking referee Dejan Santrac after he turned down three penalty claims in his side's goalless draw against Napredak Krusevac.

IVAN BOGDANOV

The notorious ringleader of Red Star Belgrade's hooligans was seen on the pitch during the abandoned Euro 2016 qualifier against Albania in Belgrade.

Hooligan...Bogdanov leads a pitch invasion

"They have talent everywhere. They are a war machine"

Caen coach Patrice Garande (left) tips Marseille to continue their storming early season form under new coach Marcelo Bielsa

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/MgK2F6

1

1 ANTONIO CASSANO
Parma v Udinese
Takes the perfect "Panenka" penalty as he chips the ball over the diving Orestis Karnezis.

2 KEVIN DE BRUYNE
Wolfsburg v Lille
Shows great technique to strike a first-time volley into the far top corner from outside the penalty area.

2

3 LIONEL MESSI
Barcelona v Paris Saint-Germain
A *Tiki-taka* move that sees the Argentinian exchange passes with Neymar and Andres Iniesta before side-footing the ball into the bottom corner.

4 SAUL BERJON
Eibar v Levante
Volleys home from the edge of the penalty area following a free-kick by Javi Lara.

5 MARCO PAPPA
Seattle Sounders v Colorado Rapids
A neat exchange of passes with Clint Dempsey before checking back and curling a well-placed chip over goalkeeper Clint Irwin.

6 JUNIOR KABANANGA
DR Congo v Ivory Coast
With his back to goal, he scores with a looping overhead kick in an African Nations Cup qualifying game.

6

WINNERS

HJK HELSINKI
Clinched their sixth successive Finnish title – and 27th overall – with three games of the season still to play.

HAMILTON ACADEMICALS
Beat Celtic at Parkhead for the first time since 1938 to go top of the Scottish Premiership.

STJARNAN
Became the first team since Valur in 1978 to go through an Icelandic top-flight season unbeaten.

LOSERS

ARSENE WENGER
Has come up against Jose Mourinho's teams 12 times in his career and is still yet to win after Chelsea beat Arsenal 2-0 in the Premier League.

CLAUDIO RANIERI
Without a win since taking over as Greece coach, he saw them suffer a 2-0 loss at home to Northern Ireland.

EDINSON CAVANI
The Paris Saint-Germain striker was sent off for his trademark gun celebration and subsequent protests after scoring against Lens.

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"It's as frustrating as hell"

MLS commissioner Don Garber (left) hits back at USA coach Jurgen Klinsmann for suggesting the domestic league is holding back a number of national-team players

15 MATCHES THAT MATTERED

Recent crunch games from around the globe

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 3
BARCELONA 2
Barcelona suffered their first defeat under Luis Enrique, despite the absence of PSG's Zlatan Ibrahimovic through injury.

AL AIN 2
AL HILAL 1
Saudi club Al Hilal lost the second leg but reached their first AFC Champions League Final in 13 years with a 4–2 aggregate win.

WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS 2
SEOUL 0
Wanderers became only the second Australian club, after Adelaide United in 2008, to reach the AFC Champions League Final.

BOCA JUNIORS 1
RIVER PLATE 1
The Buenos Aires *superclasico* was played in torrential rain at El Monumental, with both teams having a man sent off.

JUVENTUS 3
ROMA 2
The reigning Serie A champions preserved their 100 per cent record with victory against previously unbeaten Roma.

SLOVAKIA 2
SPAIN 1
Spain's impressive run of 14 consecutive away wins in European and World Cup qualifiers came to an end in Zilina.

POLAND 2
GERMANY 0
Goals from Arkadiusz Milik and Sebastian Mila gave Poland a first-ever victory against their neighbours and world champions.

ICELAND 2
HOLLAND 0
Another Euro qualifying upset as two goals from Gylfi Sigurdsson gave the hosts a first victory over the Dutch.

SPAIN U-21 1
SERBIA U-21 2
Spain's reign as European Under-21 champions for the past two competitions, was ended by Serbia's stoppage-time winner.

ALGERIA 3
MALAWI 0
Goals from Yacine Brahimi, Riyad Mahrez and Islam Slimani saw Algeria qualify for January's African Nations Cup finals.

ARBIL 0
AL QADSIA 0 aet
(Al Qadsia won 4-2 on penalties)
The Kuwaitis won the AFC Cup for the first time, beating their opponents from Iraq in the UAE.

GALATASARAY 2
FENERBAHCE 1
Two late goals from Wesley Sneijder decided the Istanbul derby after Fenerbahce's Bruno Alves had been sent off.

CELTIC 0
HAMILTON 1
Hamilton moved to the top of the Scottish Premier League and recorded their first win away to Celtic in 76 years.

GREECE 0
NORTHERN IRELAND 2
Northern Ireland made history by winning their three opening qualifiers of a major tournament for the first time ever.

PARTIZAN BELGRADE 1
RED STAR BELGRADE 0
The Belgrade derby had more fireworks on the terraces than the pitch and was held up twice as smoke filtered onto the pitch.

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Why Premier League games will go ahead on foreign soil

The French Super Cup has been played outside France for the last six years – in Canada, Tunisia, Morocco, USA, Gabon and China – with significantly larger crowds than it used to attract at home.

Similarly, the Super Cup of Italy has been played several times in Beijing – always to crowds above 65,000 – and in December the 2014 version between Juventus and Napoli is staged in Qatar.

These games can be seen as part of the development of modern professional sport, designed to sell leagues to lucrative foreign audiences in exactly the same way that the NFL stages regular-season American Football games at Wembley.

Large crowds have persuaded the NFL – and the NBA who stage basketball league games overseas – to consider extending their reach across the Atlantic by creating new franchises and new clubs in Europe to play in their competitions.

It is in this context that I find it hard to understand accusations of arrogance against Premier League clubs when they quietly discuss the possibility of staging one round of matches in their 38-round season outside England.

The instant negativity of UEFA towards the notion is also a puzzle; as if it really had anything to do with them anyway.

UEFA is forever coming up with grand schemes to expand the audiences for its competitions, like the new Thursday to Tuesday schedule of Euro 2016 qualifying matches, so why demonise the Premier League for assessing possibilities in a fast-changing sporting environment?

It may be an inconvenient truth to traditionalists and to supporters who lose one home match in a season, but the requirement to make money for clubs and leagues is paramount – not least in the new era of UEFA's Financial Fairplay, when a team cannot be sustained by cash injections from an oil baron owner but must spend according to income.

The competition for billion-pound finance is not purely between Manchester City and Manchester United, but between the Premier League and the Bundesliga, between football and the giant North American sports.

One wonders, too, why there is so much angst about this in England when the Premier League has been decidedly far from English for such a long time.

More than half the owners of Premier League clubs are from overseas, and there was only wonder and delight from fans at most clubs when foreign money came in to save and/or transform their clubs.

Why would Chelsea fans revel in a 10-year period of sustained trophy-winning success and then become outraged at the prospect of playing one home fixture in Moscow, the home city of their benefactor? Why would Manchester City supporters draw a line in the sand about a league match being staged in Abu Dhabi rather than the Etihad Stadium?

> The requirement to make money is paramount – not least in the new era of FFP

The fans of English teams have long since accepted the outrageous fact, so debilitating to the national side, that almost 70 per cent of players in the Premier League are imports. They sing the names of foreign managers like Roberto Martinez, Jose Mourinho and Ronald Koeman without a hint of concern.

One round of matches played in another country is a logical extension of the trend.

This will happen within the next few years, probably announced ahead of final negotiations for the next Premier League TV deal that is the key to continued ability to finance the ambitions of the clubs. How and where it will be done is the real debate.

The first time is likely to be on the east coast of the USA, with games spread across Florida, New York, Boston and Chicago. The reaction of CONCACAF was instructive, calling it a "win-win for both parties".

The date is likely to be the last round of matches before Christmas, the time when domestic attendances tend to take a dip.

It will be an experiment to begin with. But every indication is that it is likely to be a success that is annually repeated. WS

"I'm deeply disappointed and exasperated. Why does it always happen to me?"

Bayern Munich midfielder Thiago Alcantara on his latest serious knee injury, which happened days after his return to training

REPORTS we couldn't make up

Payback...Sweden's John Guidetti takes sweet revenge on Kurzawa of France

Ground sharing... Rapid Vienna fans grab their souvenirs

1 Rapid Vienna have invited fans to help demolish their Gerhard Hanappi Stadium, seat by seat, brick by brick.

The Austrian club, who are due to play in a new 22,000-seat ground in 2016, organised a "Demolition Party" whereby supporters could pay to remove parts of the arena to take home as souvenirs. Seats cost €19.77 (the stadium was built in 1977), a piece of the goal net cost €18.99 and €5 will get you a piece of the turf.

Before they move into their new stadium, Rapid will play games at the city's main Ernst Happel Stadion.

2 The draw for the Scottish Cup third round would normally go completely unnoticed. Premiership clubs don't enter until the fourth round and last year's relegated teams Hearts and Hibernian are also exempt until then.

But this season's draw had a touch of celebrity, conducted by Glasgow's most famous comedian, Billy Connolly.

The "Big Yin", a Celtic fan, said it was a lifetime ambition to pull out the numbered balls. "I've always thought, 'That would be a lovely thing to do, just once'," he said. "It's one of those bucket-list things.

"It's quite serious isn't it? If you're a Cowdenbeath supporter you take it very seriously. So you cannae let the side down."

For the record, Cowdenbeath were drawn away to Forfar Athletic.

3 It is not just Romario who is making waves in Brazilian politics. The 1994 World Cup winner (see *Insider*, page 70) was recently elected to the Brazilian parliament as senator for Rio de Janeiro, while his former striking partner Bebeto, who entered politics in 2010 as a member of the Democratic Labour Party, was re-elected as a state deputy.

Another Brazilian football connection to succeed on the political stage is Corinthians' ex-president Andres Sanchez, who was elected to the lower house representing the Workers' Party.

Acting up...Blake has impressed the critics in his new career

Out of the bag...Connolly conducts the Scottish Cup draw

4 With France under-21s trailing 3-0 to Sweden on the night in their Euro Championship play-off second leg, Layvin Kurzawa scored in the 87th minute to level the aggregate score at 3-3 and give France a vital away goal. He then mocked Sweden's John Guidetti by saluting him in a sayonara "farewell" gesture.

Sweden, however, had the last laugh. With two minutes left, Oscar Lewicki scored his second goal of the game to seal a 4-3 victory on aggregate, prompting the Swedish players and some of their officials on the bench to return the gesture in Kurzawa's direction.

5 Former Wales striker Nathan Blake is gaining plenty of plaudits in his new line of work: acting.

Blake, who won 29 caps for Wales, was named Best Supporting Actor by the Film Fest Cymru 2014 for his role in the short film *The Homing Bird*, in which he plays a football coach.

Blake, who also works for the BBC as a pundit, was nominated in the same category a year ago for his debut role as a taxi driver in the Cardiff-set film *Say It*.

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OBITUARIES

PONTUS SEGERSTROM (1981-2014)
The captain of Swedish side Brommapojkarna died just two months after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. He went to see a doctor in August complaining of a headache, having made 14 league appearances this season. A Norwegian league winner with Stabaek in 2008, he played his last game in a Europa League qualifier against Torino in July.

Leader...Segerstrom

Four league titles...Telch

ROBERTO TELCH (1943-2014)
Won four league championships with San Lorenzo in Argentina and represented the national team at the 1974 World Cup. Won 24 caps and made 630 appearances in the Argentinian Primera – a record surpassed only by Hugo Gatti and Ricardo Bochini.

FEDOR CHERENKOV (1959-2014)
The two-time USSR player of the year scored 12 goals in 34 internationals from midfield and played for Spartak Moscow between 1977 to 1993, save for a couple of seasons away. He won three Soviet Top League titles with the club, and the Russian Premier League title, before bowing out with a club record of 494 appearances.

Club record...Cherenkov

Paul GARDNER
THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

America's great soccer talent bids farewell

Landon Donovan, the premier American player of this – and any other – era has let it be known that this is his last year as a professional player. He's retiring, but that doesn't seem right; after all, the guy is only 32 and he's playing as well as ever.

It fits, however, because hardly anything about Donovan's remarkable career has been conventional.

He grew up in Southern California where, at the age of six, he played his first-ever game for an organised team. He scored seven goals. The kid was brimming over with talent. But where did it come from? There was absolutely no history of soccer in his or his family's background. So much for the genes.

Then Donovan spurned the almost obligatory four years of college football.

By 18, he was in Germany, having signed as a pro for Bayer Leverkusen. His silky skill on the ball singled him out as somebody different. He played with the grace and artistry of a Latin player. And why not, for he had spent most of his formative years playing for a predominantly Hispanic youth club.

When things didn't work out in Germany – he was getting very little playing time – he returned to the USA in 2001 to play for San Jose Earthquakes in Major League Soccer.

San Jose won the MLS championship in 2001 and 2003, thanks largely to Donovan's brilliance. He later switched to the Los Angeles Galaxy, where he won three more MLS titles, in 2005, 2011 and 2012.

Donovan's international career began in 1999 at the Under-17 World Cup, where the USA finished fourth and he won the Golden Ball as the best player in the tournament.

Three years later he was voted the best young player at the 2002 World Cup. He played in three World Cups (2002, 2006 and 2010) yet, inexplicably and inexcusably, was left out of the 2014 squad by Jurgen Klinsmann. As Bruce Arena, Donovan's LA Galaxy coach, wryly remarked: "If we've got 23 players who are better than Donovan, we should be able to win the World Cup."

Donovan's career stats as a striker or an attacking midfielder, for both club and country, are overwhelming, showing a lifetime of scoring goals and adding an almost equal number of assists. He leads the USA's all-time scoring list for the national team with 57 goals in 156 games, and is the only player to have reached the 50-goal/50-assist mark. He is also the all-time MLS top scorer with 136 goals.

> As Bruce Arena wryly remarked: "If we've got 23 players who are better than Donovan, we should be able to win the World Cup"

Donovan has set the bar for US players, he has shown just how good they can be. Sadly, he seems to have set it impossibly high, for few players have followed his lead. It was never going to be easy, for sure, because Donovan was a natural right from the start.

The Beautiful Game sprang to life whenever Donovan was on the ball. Despite – or more likely because of – his unusual background, everything was right: his smooth, light-footed running style, his body swerves, his balance, his darting quickness, his accurate and uncanny passing, his neat and decisive finishing.

An heir apparent? No. No sign. Most of the young American players continue to be sturdy athletes with good, but not exceptional, ball skills; products of college soccer, which Donovan bypassed.

When Donovan's successor appears, he will likely emerge from the growing ranks of Hispanic talent, an exciting area of the game that is still criminally under-engaged by the American soccer powers that be. WS

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"The fact is that Jens Keller did an outstanding job [at Schalke]. I can only say that he has my total respect and I hope with all my heart that he will be able to operate soon in a calmer atmosphere"

Borussia Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp defends his Bundesliga colleague

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings and loans

IN

Boss...Martins is the new coach of Mauritania

EUROPE

ROBERTO DI MATTEO was appointed coach of Schalke after the Bundesliga side sacked Jens Keller.

ROLANDO MARAN took charge of Chievo when the Serie A side dismissed Eugenio Corini following a 3-0 defeat by Roma.

Former Valencia coach **MIROSLAV DJUKIC** replaced Albert Ferrer at rock-bottom La Liga side Cordoba. **LUCAS ALCARAZ** took over from Jose Luis Mendilibar at Levante.

NEIL LENNON, who left Celtic in May after leading the team to a third successive Scottish Premiership title, was appointed manager of struggling English second-tier side Bolton Wanderers.

GIORGOS KARAGOUNIS, who won 139 caps for Greece, called time on his playing career in order to become football director of the country's national teams. The 37-year-old quit in June following Greece's elimination from the World Cup.

Third spell...Pumpido

MARIAN RADA was put in charge of Romanian side Rapid Bucharest, replacing Ionel Ganea who was sacked after a 3-0 loss to city rivals Dinamo. Ukrainian coach **OLEG PROTASOV** took charge of the country's Europa League contenders Astra Giurgiu.

Piturca...left national job after a victory

Piturca takes Saudi job

Romania coach **VICTOR PITURCA** resigned after a 2-0 win against Finland to take charge at Saudi Arabian club Al Ittihad.

Former Czech Republic national boss **JOZEF CHOVANEC** replaced Frantisek Straka as coach of struggling reigning Slovak champions Slovan Bratislava after they had won just one of their previous 10 games in all competitions.

FRANCO FODA returned to coach Sturm Graz for a second spell after **DARKO MILANIC** left the Austrian club for English second-tier side Leeds United.

Former Real Sociedad and Barcelona striker **MEHO KODRO** replaced Dzenan Uscuplic as coach of Bosnian side Sarajevo.

Cypriot side Apollon Limassol replaced Christos Christoforou with **IOAN ANDONE** following successive 4-0 defeats, in the league and the Europa League.

SOUTH AMERICA

Former Manchester United and Argentina playmaker **JUAN SEBASTIAN VERON** was named president of Argentinian club Estudiantes.

Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning goalkeeper **NERY PUMPIDO** was appointed coach of Paraguayan club Olimpia for a third time.

CONCACAF

Houston Dynamo coach **DOMINIC KINNEAR** will take charge of MLS rivals San Jose Earthquakes next season.

Ex-Mexico coach **JOSE MANUEL DE LA TORRE** took over at Guadalajara.

MANUEL KEOSSEIAN replaced Anibal Ruiz in charge of Guatemalan club Municipal.

AFRICA

Dutch coach **RUUD KROL** took charge of Libyan side Al Ahli Tripoli.

Former France international midfielder **CORENTIN MARTINS** was appointed coach of Mauritania, while **JOHN AJINA SESAY** was named boss of Sierra Leone.

ASIA

AHMED AL HASSAN will coach Palestine at January's Asian Cup in Australia.

Switching sides...Kinnear

EUROPE

GUY LUZON resigned as coach of struggling Standard Liege with the club 12th in the Belgian league. His final game in charge, against Zulte Waregem, was abandoned after crowd trouble.

NAC sacked coach **NEBOJSA GUDELJ** after a poor start to their Eredivisie campaign left the team just outside the relegation play-off places.

Former France, Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur defender **WILLIAM GALLAS**, who last played for Perth Glory in Australia's A-League, has retired at the age of 37.

Farewell...Kuyt

Holland's **DIRK KUYT** announced his retirement from international football after winning 104 caps, **DENNIS ROMMEDAHL** called time on his national career three games short of Peter Schmeichel's Denmark record of 129 appearances and **NIKICA JELAVIC** quit Croatia after six goals in 36 appearances.

CONCACAF

Montreal Impact's 38-year-old former Italy striker **MARCO DI VAIO** will retire at the end of the MLS season.

"I thought Neymar's father was a friend, but I'd accelerate if he stepped out in front of my car"

Former Santos president Luis Alvaro de Oliveira Ribeiro takes it badly when ordered by a Brazilian court to pay 20,000 reales (£5,000) to the father (right) of the Brazil and Barcelona star for defamation of character

Sad ending...Luzon

OUT

Finished...Gallas

AFRICA

Nigeria sacked coach **STEPHEN KESHI** despite a 3-1 victory at home to Sudan that kept the team in the running to defend their African Nations Cup title. German **GERNOT ROHR** resigned as Niger boss with the team bottom of their qualifying group.

PHILIPPE TROUSSIER left CS Sfaxien after the Tunisian club failed to reach the CAF Champions League Final.

CRAIG ROSSLEE was dismissed as coach of AmaZulu after failure to win any of their opening seven games left the club bottom of the South African Premier Soccer League.

All over...Vogts

Vogts leaves Azerbaijan

Former Germany boss **BERTI VOGTS** quit Azerbaijan after almost six years as coach following a 6-0 loss to Croatia. **GEORGI KONDRATIEV** stepped down as boss of Belarus after their 3-1 home loss to Slovakia.

NEW CALEDONIA

FIFA steps in at troubled federation

FIFA is sending a mission to New Caledonia to intervene in one of the sorriest cases of poor governance in the history of the game.

Jacques Zimako is one of New Caledonia's most illustrious players and he is facing a large legal bill to be recognised as vice-president of his homeland's association, despite being elected into the position more than three years ago.

FIFA and the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) will now send a joint mission to try to solve a problem that dates back to 2011, when Zimako was elected on a joint ticket with Edward Bowen.

The pair soon fell out and Bowen, a controversial trade unionist, tried to force the New Caledonian Football Federation (FCF) council to sack Zimako. The council refused and 16 local football leaders complained. Zimako was subsequently suspended, only for a civic tribunal in July 2012 to rule that FCF sanction illegal and the former Saint-Etienne and Bastia player was still the FCF's vice president.

The FCF ignored this ruling and Bowen cemented his power when he was appointed onto FIFA's disciplinary committee at the world body's annual congress in May 2013. However, Bowen had failed to tell FIFA that he was facing criminal charges back home for violence against local civil servants.

Bowen was subsequently convicted but, incredibly, soon after his conviction OFC president David Chung wrote offering his support.

Zimako's outraged supporters wrote protest letters to FIFA's ethics committee. Bowen was removed from his position, but this was only confirmed at this year's congress in June, when Fiti Sunia of American Samoa was selected as a replacement.

Bowen went to prison in December 2013, when according to the FCF's own statutes Zimako should have taken over as president. However, the FCF continued to refuse to recognise Zimako. FCF's rules also state that if the vice-president cannot take over as president, then the eldest council member should do so. After Bowen was sent to prison, Jules Hmeun took over and remains in charge.

Even though France is the administrative power, the local government has large autonomy and New Caledonia was admitted to FIFA as a full independent member in 2004. Zimako was only able to seek recourse at the 2012 civic tribunal because the FCF is a public body. That ruling remains ignored.

FIFA and the French Football Federation previously sent envoys to Noumea but no action was taken. Though Zimako is legally the vice president of the FCF, FIFA's own website shows the position as vacant.

Zimako is in Corsica and has sought redress at the Court of Arbitration for Sport but the FCF has ignored their communications too. Zimako has since been told that for his case to progress he must pay out €22,000 to cover the cost of both side's fees.

Struggle...Zimako was first elected FCF vice-president three years ago

Born in Lifou, Zimako is a popular figure in New Caledonia. After leaving to play in France, he became the first Kanak to play for *Les Bleus*, winning 13 caps.

In a statement, FIFA said: "Following discussions at the meeting of the FIFA Associations Committee held on 22 September 2014, it was decided that a joint FIFA/OFC mission will visit New Caledonia...to finalise the process of the revision and adoption of statutes."

Steve Menary

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Rooney: a scorer of great goals, but not a great goalscorer

As Wayne Rooney plods his way inexorably to the so-called record number of England goals, netting a meagre pair in their last two uninspiring games and missing a fine late chance against Estonia, it's interesting to look at the records of the country's leading scorers.

I wonder where Tommy Lawton would have stood, had it not been for the war cancelling out many of the goals he scored for England. And that is not to mention those others which the big Everton and Chelsea centre-forward might have got, had there been anything like today's abundant fixture list.

Of what one might call modern players, Nat Lofthouse, a Bolton man like Lawton, stands well ahead on scoring averages, with 30 goals in just 33 games. There would probably have been more had he not ludicrously and inexplicably been left out of the 1958 World Cup squad in Sweden, when only 20 players out of a permitted 22 made the trip, and just after he had scored twice for Bolton Wanderers in the FA Cup Final (the second admittedly through charging Manchester United goalkeeper Harry Gregg in the back).

Bobby Charlton is still the leader with 49 goals in 106 games. He, too, might well have scored more had he been chosen to play (though he did go with the squad) in Sweden. That was something of a national scandal, when Walter Winterbottom the England manager – known by us journalists to be picking teams despite the existence of a selection committee – wholly excluded him.

Heaven sent...Rooney celebrates scoring against San Marino and moving ever closer to Charlton's record number of England goals

True, Charlton had a poor game en route to Sweden in Belgrade against Yugoslavia, who whitewashed England 5-0, but then so did almost everyone else. And he was all too obviously haunted by the memory of the horrific Munich air disaster which had killed so many of his Manchester United team-mates and which he survived.

Where Charlton might be said to excel above the rest is because he was a salient member of an England team which did what none is likely ever to do again: win the World Cup.

Initially a precocious two-footed inside-forward – a naturally right-footed inside-left who had schooled his left foot to be almost as good – he had impressed in the 1962 World Cup in Chile as a fluent, fast and elusive outside-left.

By 1966 Alf Ramsey had transformed him into a deep-lying centre-forward where, though he wasn't the most constructive of players, he could be menacing for the ease with which he could beat an opponent. He scored a spectacular long-range goal against Mexico – at Wembley of course. He crowned a majestic display against Portugal in the semi-final with both England goals.

Jimmy Greaves didn't play beyond the first couple of matches in 1966, dropping out injured and when fit failing to regain his place – a profound disappointment. Ramsey, with whom his relationship was never ideal given Greaves' penchant for the humorous foray, preferred – after picking Geoff Hurst – to keep Roger Hunt in the team. Praising Hunt for "making space", he thus preferred a player who missed a potentially vital chance in the

Final. Yet the fact is that Greaves, for all his speed of thought and movement, his inspired opportunism in the box, had failed in the 1962 World Cup in Chile, where he had said to me: "There are some good teams here and they're playing some bloody rubbish because they're frightened of being killed." Yet en route to the 1966 finals, having recovered from an attack of jaundice, he had scored four goals in Oslo against Norway.

There he said: "I think every player senses in the England team that we could all be on the edge of immortality as far as football is concerned. You've got to be honest. We're in with such a good chance it's unbelievable." His 44 goals came in 57 games but, alas, they did not at that 1966 World Cup.

> Perhaps Rooney has never delivered internationally on his glittering early promise

It took Gary Lineker 80 games to score 48 goals, but his half dozen in the Mexican World Cup of 1986 made him the tournament's top scorer. By then he had matured impressively, from a fast, incisive striker who tended to miss the chances he had made into a cool and prolific opportunist. His hat-trick in Monterrey against Poland enabled England to climb out of the pit of despair occasioned by their first two poor performances. On television he recently "confessed" to having been a goal hanger, but he was a great deal more than that.

Like Charlton and indeed Greaves, he played the game with impeccable sportsmanship. Against Paraguay in Mexico City, he was chopped across the throat by a defender, left the field for treatment but still scored a couple of goals. Afterwards he observed wryly: "It was an accident. At least, I hope it was."

Lineker might have equalled Charlton's record in his last international, in 1992 against Sweden in Stockholm, had Graham Taylor, an embattled England manager, not controversially pulled him off to make room for Alan Smith, purportedly to hold the ball up when England were 2-1 down. As they remained. And what of those four in Madrid against Spain?

Rooney, now with 43 goals from 99 games, seems set to become the highest of all scorers although his scoring rate is inferior to those of the other three. Moreover, if the ultimate criterion of prowess must surely be the World Cup, then Rooney three times has failed to achieve it. In contrast, he played splendidly in the finals of the European Championship in Portugal in 2004, excelling in the games against France, Switzerland and Croatia, scoring four goals. And had he not been kicked early on out of the quarter-final against the Portuguese in Lisbon in 2004, it is highly possible that England – beaten only on penalties – would have gone on to win the title.

Perhaps Rooney has never, internationally at least, delivered on his glittering early promise. He was only 16 when he scored a marvellous winning goal for his original club, Everton, against Arsenal at Goodison Park.

He was only 17 when with glorious versatility he pulled England's chestnuts out of the fire in a European qualifying game, his international debut, against Turkey at Sunderland, astonishingly ubiquitous.

World Cups have been less productive, sometimes because he was not fully fit. In Gelsenkirchen in a 2006 World Cup quarter-final against Portugal, he was expelled for a dreadful foul – retaliatory it's true – on Ricardo Carvalho. He was off song in South Africa in 2010 and unexceptional last year in Brazil. His career has been punctuated by red card outbursts, one of which in Montenegro forced him to miss two European Championship finals games in 2012.

Ghosts aside, Barton is no role model

Speaking of books, that famous autodidact of the football field, Joey Barton, reportedly has still to decide how his own autobiography will be written, and this after a couple of years.

As you may remember, the original "ghost" was to be no less an undoubted intellectual, and former table tennis star, than Matthew Syed, an acknowledged master of the impressive cross reference. A curious combination and it didn't work, Barton deciding there was too much Syed and not enough of himself.

So to one Jeff Hudson, whose attempt Barton dismissed as too fictional. Now studying for a degree in philosophy at the hitherto obscure Roehampton University (an ex-polytechnic perhaps?), Barton himself has seemingly completed nine chapters.

But Barton isn't Keane and though Keane shows still no overdue repentance on that brutal and horrific revenge foul on Alf-Inge Haaland – having injured himself when trying to foul Haaland in a match against Leeds United – Barton's own episodes of violence both on and off the field hardly make him a role model.

Even if Manchester City still have cause to thank him and his QPR expulsion for that Premier League title.

The last word...Barton rows with Manchester City's Tevez after being sent off

Keane and Ferguson: the bad blood continues

Read all about it...Doyle and Keane at the book launch in Dublin

Roy Keane's autobiography, ghosted by as distinguished an author as Roddy Doyle, has elicited huge publicity and some controversy. His relationship with Alex Ferguson – mostly productive as Keane admits – at Manchester United, is something of a Dracula meets the Wolf Man affair. Keane at his best was a player of immense influence, the ultimate competitor whose drive, intelligence and technical abilities inspired his teams.

What has not been publicised in reviews of the book is the 2002 conflict with then Republic of Ireland World Cup manager Mick McCarthy. Keane was incensed by the decision to put the training camp on a tiny Japanese island with no decent facilities and said so. McCarthy chose to confront and rebuke him in front of several of the squad. A palpable recipe for disaster and explosion given Keane's inflammable character.

It duly took place, Keane furiously abusing McCarthy and flying home. A grievous loss to a gallant Irish team which did wonderfully well without him, but would surely have done even better with him.

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'I THOUGHT I

HAD RUINED MY CAREER'

LUIS SUAREZ IS BACK

The Uruguay forward was presented with the 2014 ESM Golden Shoe for his goalscoring exploits with Liverpool last season and Sid Lowe was in Barcelona to record events for World Soccer

Barca boy...training with new team-mates Mascherano (left) and Messi

Infamous...Suarez makes his mark on the summer's World Cup

Kenny Dalglish had intended to play a round of golf. And Kenny Dalglish does love a game of golf. But instead of heading out onto the course with his clubs, he was standing on a stage in Barcelona, preparing to present Luis Suarez with the ESM Golden Shoe. The delivery was typically deadpan. "I was supposed to be playing golf, but I dropped it the moment that I was told that Luis wanted me to be here," Dalglish told the audience. "It's an honour for me to be here."

Sitting a few metres away in the middle of the front row was Suarez. On one side of him sat his wife Sofia; on the other, the president of FC Barcelona, Josep Maria Bartomeu. Some of the club's players were there too; Andres Iniesta, Xavi and Sergio Busquets had all come, as had former players like Charly Rexach, Carles Puyol and Andoni Zubizarreta, now the club's sporting director.

Asked if he thought that Suarez would be a success at Barcelona, Dalglish replied that he had no doubt, saying "no one can stop him". And then he added quickly, "anyway, if things aren't working out, we'll happily take him back on loan, no problem".

It was Suarez who had asked Dalglish to attend. Although he joined Barcelona for €81 million in the summer, the award was won playing for Liverpool, and the Uruguayan wanted to share it with his former team-mates. Dalglish was the manager who had signed him and whose number seven shirt Suarez inherited – even if he did not realise how symbolic it was when he took it on. He ended his Liverpool career with 82 goals.

The idea of holding the presentation at Anfield was not possible and nor was Steven Gerrard able to make it to the event, held at the ornate Damm beer factory in Barcelona, built in 1876. He did though provide a video message. "We're proud of you," said Gerrard.

He also described Suarez as the best he had played with. "That Stevie should say that makes me feel extremely proud," the Uruguayan said when he sat down with the ESM group after the presentation. "And having [Kenny] here meant a lot to me. He is a legend and having his support is wonderful for me. I am so pleased he is here."

Gerrard's video ended on: "We miss you, mate." That was hardly surprising.

Suarez scored 31 goals for Liverpool last season, none of them penalties. He also got 12 assists. And all that despite missing the start of the season through suspension. But Liverpool did not win their first title in two decades as their challenge effectively ended in the penultimate game of the season with a 3-3 draw at Crystal Palace. At the end of the game, Suarez pulled his shirt over his head and sobbed.

> "Nobody comes close to Luis. He's not only the best, he's the best by some distance" Steven Gerrard on Suarez

Much worse followed. An injury meant that he only just made it to the World Cup. He played his first match in a month against England and scored twice in a 2-1 victory, despite not being fully fit. Then came the game against Italy and the bite on Giorgio Chiellini. Two games; the two sides of Luis Suarez.

The contrast, even now, is startling. In just four days he'd gone from one extreme to the other. This could have been remembered as his World Cup; many will now remember it like that, and for the wrong reason.

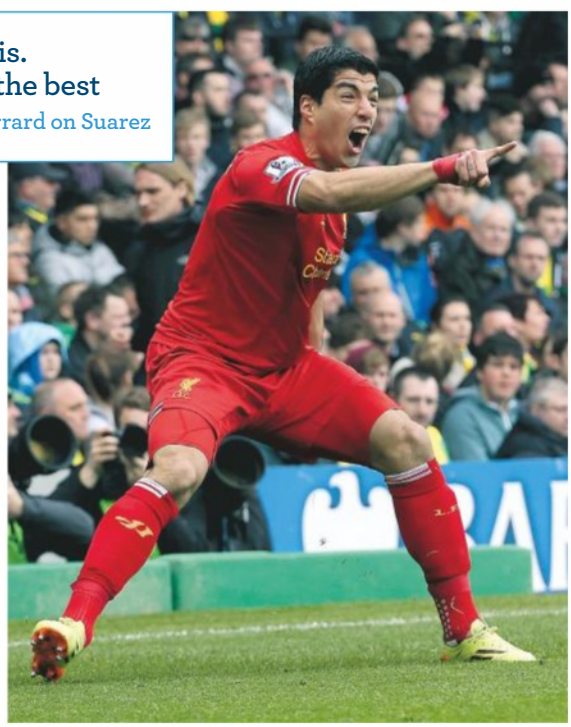
He was out of the World Cup and banned from all football-related activity for four months, plus nine international games. In the middle of it all came the move to Barcelona.

During the Golden Shoe award ceremony, Suarez's wife was called onto the stage and asked to say a few words. "This is a nice moment at the end of a hard year," she said.

Suarez himself admitted: "I thought I had ruined my career. After what happened at the World Cup I spoke to my wife, I reflected, and I accepted reality. I began to relax after I had said sorry. And it was just then that Barcelona arrived. When Pere [Guardiola, Suarez's agent] called, I started crying. I was scared that the club would back off because of the repercussion that the incident provoked."

The move to Barcelona has allowed him to begin a new chapter, emotionally as much as physically.

Suarez's wife had first moved to Barcelona, from Montevideo, at the age of 15, when he was 17. Her parents still live there, providing a base just outside



Familiar sight...Suarez celebrates scoring for Liverpool last season

Adios...Suarez bids farewell at Anfield

the city in Castelldefels, and the family soon moved into a rented home nearby.

Suarez often travelled to Barcelona when he lived in Holland and England. He already knew Iniesta, who is also represented by Pere Guardiola. And he has formed a relationship with the Argentinian players, Javier Mascherano and Lionel Messi.

The award of the ESM Golden Shoe functioned as a marker of a new start, as well as celebrating the previous season. Suarez received the award a fortnight before his ban was due to end, nearing full fitness, almost ready. "I'm 100 per cent", he said.

After signing for Barcelona, Suarez had, at first, not been able to train with his team-mates. Instead, he trained alone with the club's physiotherapists. No photographs were allowed to emerge of his medical or of him signing his contract. He had to hide from cameras and as he dashed past journalists outside his home he said nothing. He could have no official presentation at Camp Nou.

An appeal to the Court of Arbitration in Sport did not succeed in reducing the ban, but it did mean that he was able to train with the squad. He also played a few

New start...a friendly against Indonesia U19s

"I've learnt that I have to be conscious of the fact that the spotlight is on me and accept my mistakes" Luis Suarez

minutes in the Gamper Trophy, which acted as a kind of presentation before the fans, even if Suarez admitted that he felt like an invitee, as if he had won a competition to play 15 minutes for Barcelona. There was later a specially arranged practice game at the club's training ground, against an Indonesia youth team, and two friendlies for Uruguay helped bring him closer.

"I just wanted the time to pass as quickly as possible and get back to playing," Suarez said, as he sat at a table with the Golden Shoe in front of him.

"I have learnt that I have to be conscious of the fact that the spotlight is on me and accept my mistakes. Sometimes the desire to win works against you.

"But what I want to do now is leave it all behind me and look to the future."

Kenny Dalglish:

"THE GREAT THING ABOUT LUIS IS THAT HE DOESN'T THINK LIKE AN INDIVIDUAL"

You signed Luis Suarez for Liverpool. It was important for you to be here and present him with his award...
It was important for me to be here. I asked him to come to Liverpool and he was good enough to come and play for Liverpool for three-and-a-half years, so surely I could catch a flight to come and be here in Barcelona for a day to present him with the Golden Shoe, which he won for doing fantastically well for Liverpool. I don't think anyone will ever forget that he won it for Liverpool.

Luis inherited your number seven shirt. Did you ever talk about that?
I never mentioned it. I suppose other people thought it was iconic, didn't they? But it was never a big deal for me. It was just a number. I think I always wore seven at Liverpool. I don't think I ever wore another number, apart from once I wore 12. After Kevin [Keegan] had it, I had it and [the symbolism] gathered pace after that. But I didn't see a great focus on numbers. When we were playing, the number was irrelevant. As long as you were 11 or less...

So you never felt under pressure taking Keegan's shirt?
All I could be was be myself, and if I wasn't going to be good enough I'd soon find out. I just played. I think numbers have become more relevant in recent times. People talk about it now; they didn't then. For Luis coming in, there was no conversation necessary. There was no need to say anything about the number seven. He was playing for Liverpool. And he was fantastic for us. He scored on his first game. He came on as a sub in his first game against Stoke and scored.

So what did you say to him after his debut game?
Aye, that'll do.

Can you sum up how significant he was for Liverpool last season?
He made a huge contribution. He was aided, of course, by the people he was playing with, but the contribution that he made as an individual was huge. It was unbelievable. I think he contributed to over 50 per cent of Liverpool's goals, either by scoring or assisting.

Suarez got lots of goals, but not in the big matches...
What's a big match?

Matches against a big team, such as Manchester United...
I think you'll find he scored at Old Trafford. Everton? Is that a big match? I think you'll find he scored at Everton. I've just given you two big matches and he scored, and I'm not good at stats. I can barely remember goals. Anyway, if you play for Liverpool, every game is a big match.

What was it like watching him play like he did last season but to no longer be his manager?
It was enjoyable because while I might not be the Liverpool manager I'm still a Liverpool fan and to watch him play was a joy. The great thing about Luis Suarez is that he doesn't think like an individual. He might score great individual goals but what matters to him is the success of the team. He scores goals and he celebrates them but he shares them with everybody else; he shares everything. I saw him against Manchester United dribble along the by-line, beat three or four and knock it across. He was just as happy to see Dirk Kuyt tap it in.

Derby delight...Suarez scores against Everton

Off the pitch, he seems so quiet compared to the footballer we watch play. We don't see that side of him...
Neither should you. You don't have to see that, do you? But you see him here today. He came to sign for Liverpool with Sofia, his wife, and his baby in his arms. He's a family man, through and through. And by the way, he loves his football. He trains as hard as anybody, tries as hard as anybody. He loves his football. If Liverpool are where they are, it is partly down to him.

Interview by Sid Lowe

ESM GOLDEN SHOE: *Past winners*

Season	Winner	Goals/Points
1996–97	RONALDO (Barcelona)	34/68
1997–98	NIKOS MACHLAS (Vitesse)	34/68
1998–99	MARIO JARDEL (Porto)	36/72
1999–00	KEVIN PHILLIPS (Sunderland)	30/60
2000–01	HENRIK LARSSON (Celtic)	35/52.5
2001–02	MARIO JARDEL (Sporting Lisbon)	42/84
2002–03	ROY MAKAAY (Dep La Coruna)	29/58
2003–04	THIERRY HENRY (Arsenal)	30/60
2004–05	THIERRY HENRY (Arsenal)	25/50
	DIEGO FORLAN (Villarreal)	25/50
2005–06	LUCA TONI (Fiorentina)	31/62
2006–07	FRANCESCO TOTTI (Roma)	26/52
2007–08	CRISTIANO RONALDO (Man United)	31/62
2008–09	DIEGO FORLAN (Atletico Madrid)	32/64
2009–10	LIONEL MESSI (Barcelona)	34/68
2010–11	CRISTIANO RONALDO (Real Madrid)	40/80
2011–12	LIONEL MESSI (Barcelona)	50/100
2012–13	LIONEL MESSI (Barcelona)	46/92
2013–14	CRISTIANO RONALDO (Real Madrid)	31/62
	LUIS SUAREZ (Liverpool)	31/62

The Golden Shoe award was revived by ESM in 1996 with a new goals/points formula depending on the relative strength of each domestc league. The original Golden Boot award, which had been organised by *France Football* magazine since 1968, fell into disrepute in 1987 when Rodion Camataru of Dinamo Bucharest won the award after scoring 44 goals – 21 of which came in the final seven games of the Romanian season.

Dispatches

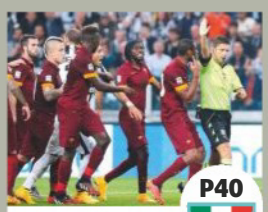
Exclusive reports from our worldwide network of correspondents

SERBIA P30
European qualifier against Albania descends into chaos as a drone carrying a flag flies above the stadium in Belgrade.

GUATEMALA P34
Players threaten strike action after wages go unpaid.

GERMANY P35
Roberto Di Matteo is back in the game as coach of Schalke.

COLOMBIA P39
League shake-up is set to benefit some of the game's fallen giants.

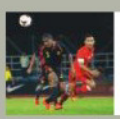


ITALY P40
Roma blame the referee for defeat against Juve.

BRAZIL P36
International break sees no let-up for the domestic game.

AFRICA P38
Fears about the ebola virus cast a shadow over the Nations Cup.

MEXICO P42
Ronaldinho's shock move to Queretaro has provided a healthy boost for Liga MX.



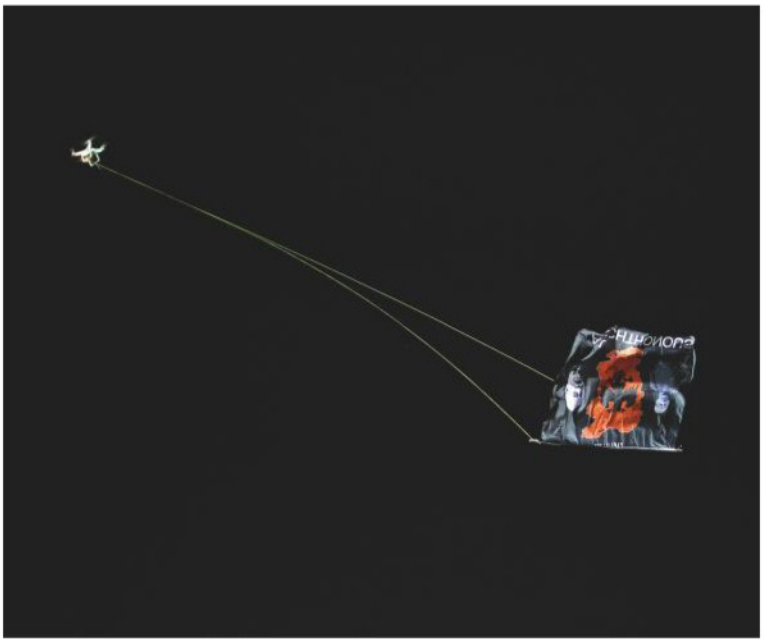
PAPUA NEW GUINEA P44
New coach Wynton Rufer sets his sights on making an impact at the Pacific Games.

NORTH KOREA P46
Sending youngsters out to European teams is already having an effect at international level.

VLADIMIR NOVAK
in Belgrade

The dark past rears its ugly head

Euro qualifier abandoned after Albania flag protest



Prelude to mayhem...the drone bearing its pro-Albania message hovers over the stadium in Belgrade

"This is not a normal match and we are not approaching it as usual. It's impossible to keep the players and the staff away from the general situation. Some of the important players in our team are from Kosovo and this is a special match for them." Those were the words of Redi Jupi, director of the Albanian FA's international department, in the build-up to the Euro 2016 qualifier between Serbia and Albania in Belgrade.

In the end, the game turned out to not only be "special" and "not normal", as Jupi had predicted, but it could also have ended in tragedy.

It was clear from the moment Serbia and Albania were drawn in the same qualifying group that their meetings would be tense and that the visiting teams would face a hostile atmosphere. The animosity between the two nations is nothing new and it has increased in recent years over the issue of Kosovo. The southern Serbian autonomous province, populated with a majority of ethnic Albanians, was the scene of armed conflict in the late 1990s. It broke away from Serbia and in early 2008 declared itself an independent state. Inevitably, Albania was among the first to recognise Kosovo.

As a measure of precaution, several weeks before the Belgrade clash the Serbian FA suggested to both UEFA and the Albanian FA that the game – and the return in Albania next year – should be staged without away fans. Such an arrangement was made when arch-rivals Serbia and Croatia played each other in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers. Further back, the Euro 2000 qualifiers between Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Croatia were staged without visiting fans.

However, the Albanian FA turned down the proposal and requested 2,000 tickets. Some Serbian media had reported fans from Kosovo would turn up in Belgrade as Albania supporters. That would have been a dream scenario for hooligans to turn the stadium into a war zone. Eventually, only the day before the game, it was announced that there would be no away fans. The Albanians couldn't comply with the conditions demanded by the hosts and UEFA that all ticket holders should be listed by name and be able to prove Albanian citizenship with their passports. Nevertheless, on the day of the match, Albanian fans posted a photo on Facebook showing them preparing for their bus ride to Belgrade. Whether they indeed headed north to Serbia, it's hard to verify. But some Albanians did reach the Serbian capital with plans to support their national team.

What they did on that Belgrade night on October 14 can only be described, by any standards, as brazen and aggressive political provocation. It was a surreal scene in the packed Partizan stadium when, all of a sudden, and with the match 40 minutes old, a drone (a remote controlled mini-helicopter) appeared hovering high above the pitch. It carried a flag with a map of a fictional "Greater Albania" (which includes parts of Serbia, Greece, Macedonia and Montenegro), with the coat of arms of the Albanian flag – a black eagle with two heads – along with pictures of Ismail Qemali, the father of Albanian independence and Isa Boletini, a leader of Albanian guerillas in the early 1900s, and at the bottom the word "AUTOCHTONOUS" (indigenous).

Serbia striker Danko Lazovic was the first to explain to the English referee Martin Atkinson what was going on and the official stopped the game. After several minutes the drone lost height and Serbia defender Stefan Mitrovic jumped up and grabbed the flag. Albania striker Bekim Balaj then ran towards Mitrovic, pushed him away and snatched the flag.

At that point things got completely out of control. A brawl broke out between players from both sides, but worse still, a dozen hooligans stormed the pitch and some of them attacked Albanian players. One of them used a plastic chair to hit Balaj. Albania's captain Lorik Cana defended his team-mate and got into a fight with the hooligan. There were even stewards among the pitch invaders.

Unbelievably, Ivan Bogdanov, nicknamed the "Beast of Genoa" was

REACTION IN SERBIA

Serbian newspaper *Alo* called the incident an "Attack on Serbia", while *Kurir* claimed the "Brother of Albania's Prime minister provoked chaos" and *Blic* saying he "flew the flying flag from the VIP box".

Heated...players tussle after Serbia defender Stefan Mitrovic (no13) grabbed the flag

Pitch battle...a supporter attacks Albania striker Balaj with a chair

also on the pitch. He is the notorious Serbian hooligan who in 2010 had played a major role when flares were thrown onto the pitch, leading to the abandonment of the Italy-Serbia Euro 2012 qualifier after only seven minutes.

Fortunately, most players maintained their self-control and several of the Serbian team protected Albanian players from further attacks. Atkinson had no other choice than to suspend the game and send both teams to the dressing rooms. On their way to the tunnel the Albanian players were pelted with coins, lighters and other objects.

During the break, when it was uncertain whether the match would be restarted or abandoned, police started an offensive against the crowd on the South terrace, the base of the Partizan fans, where the situation escalated. For me, as an eye-witness in the nearby press tribune, the most dramatic moments were when the hooligans on that terrace, in their anger against the police force, started to rattle the fence. I had the impression that it could be knocked down and if that had happened, and hundreds of furious hooligans had broken the police barrier, there could well have been bloodshed and tragedy.

It's true that the police and stewards made a big mistake by failing to prevent the hooligans from getting on the pitch, but on the other hand the police deserve credit for managing to keep things under control on that wild South tribune.

Eventually, after almost an hour, the Serbian players came out, but only to greet the public as it was clear that the match had been abandoned. According to a Serbian FA press release the following day, UEFA had insisted the match be restarted, but the Albanian team refused, claiming they were both psychologically and physically unable to continue. They persisted with that view even after the Serbs had offered to continue playing behind closed doors.

"We had an open line with Nyon. UEFA insisted and the delegate [Harry Been from Holland] agreed that the game should be continued," said Zoran Lakovic, the Serbian FA chief executive. "But the

Albanians stayed in their dressing room and said that they were not able to get back on the pitch."

Albania coach Giovanni De Biasi claimed his players were attacked even in their dressing room. "Four of our players were injured," he said, although he did not name them. "It's terrible what happened. One could feel the tension from the very beginning."

Interestingly, nobody in Serbia mentioned that the stadium was packed with nearly 35,000 only because the opponents were Albania. If Serbia had played against any other team, the stadium would have been half-empty. In September, barely 10,000 showed up for a friendly against France.

It's an inescapable fact that the fans spent more energy directing vitriol against the Albanians than cheering on their team. The visitors' anthem was booed so loudly that it was completely inaudible and during the 40 minutes the match lasted they chanted slogans such as "Kill the Albanians" and "Fuck the Albanians".

Firecrackers were also thrown on the pitch, one landing close to an Albanian player who was getting ready to take a corner. Such ugly behaviour is, unfortunately, a common occurrence in football stadiums in the Balkans. But the fact remains the eventual abandonment of the game was provoked by the incident with the drone and the flag.

According to Serbian media, Olsi Rama, the brother of Albania prime minister Edi Rama, and part of a small group of Albanian VIPs who attended the game, was alleged to have flown the drone via a remote control. He was questioned by police but not detained because he has an American passport.

Confrontation...Serbian riot police attempt to keep the fans under control

Targeted...Albania's players are pelted as they flee for the tunnel

He left Belgrade with the team and on landing in Tirana denied he had anything to do with the drone.

As for the Serbian police, they issued a statement the day after the game to say they would "aim to identify the persons who took part in launching the drone with the flag of 'Greater Albania' at the football game between Serbia and Albania".

The events in the stadium also had consequences for diplomatic relations between Serbia and Albania. The Albanian ambassador in Belgrade was ordered to the ministry of foreign affairs and was given a formal protest note, while the visit to Belgrade of Albania's prime minister Rama, scheduled for October 22, was postponed until November.

There were also incidents involving innocent citizens in the Serbian cities of Novi Sad and Vrsac. In the days after the game several bakery shops, whose owners are ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, were set on fire, smashed or stoned.

The logical reaction was to question why UEFA had not separated Serbia and Albania at the qualifying draw, just as they had with Azerbaijan and Armenia or Spain and Gibraltar. But to do that, UEFA needed both Serbia and Albania to make such a request. And that did not happen.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, of course, and after the events in Belgrade, maybe next time UEFA will not need to be asked.

Two weeks after the carnage in Belgrade, UEFA announced that Albania would forfeit the game 3-0, while Serbia were docked three points and ordered to play their next two home qualifiers – against Denmark on November 14 and Armenia in September next year – behind closed doors. **WS**

Utter chaos...fans rush onto the pitch, ignoring security staff and police, after the match is halted

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BRYAN KAY

Players in revolt

Strike threats over wages and union recognition

Outspoken...Carlos Ruiz in the Centroamericana Cup Final, when everything looked so promising for Guatemala

It was supposed to represent the beginning of a bright new dawn for Guatemalan football. Under new coach Ivan Sopegno, the national team had seen breathless progress this year.

Before a narrow 2-1 Centroamericana Cup Final defeat to high-flying Costa Rica in September – a match in which they could easily have triumphed – they had won all five games under the Argentinian, who had taken over a moribund squad in May. Prior to his arrival, back-to-back defeats against Japan and the United States culminated a winless streak stretching back to August 2012. The reversal against the USA was a particularly humiliating 6-0 drubbing.

So hopes were high; progress was tangible. They had also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup in the process. Sopegno offered cautious optimism, but signalled that good times lay ahead. A steep climb up the FIFA rankings seemed to confirm it, with their Centroamericana Cup exploits propelling them up 77 places to 57th.

But no sooner had the squad returned to club duty than simmering tensions within the wider Guatemalan game threatened to derail all the hard work.

The majority of the players at the Centroamericana Cup went into open revolt, staging a press conference where they said they would refuse to be selected for the national team for the remainder of the year's international matches.

The furore hinged on a dispute with the national governing body over recognition of the Guatemalan players' union and, ultimately, alleged poor treatment of players at the hands of local club bosses.

Guatemalan society has ongoing political and social problems stemming from a 36-year civil war that raged until 1996. Political observers say the country is riddled with a culture of impunity and lawlessness. As this latest football dispute unfolded, players' representatives cited grave cultural problems surrounding the game. One even spoke of players receiving death threats.

At a press conference in the nation's capital, Guatemala City, veteran striker and union president Carlos Ruiz – who had only just returned to the national fold – spoke of players being treated "like animals". The touchpaper was lit when players from top-flight team Coatepeque allegedly went unpaid for two months. According to national newspaper *Prensa Libre*, amid the furore the team's coach and four players were dismissed. That then led to the remaining players at one point refusing to travel for the next fixture.

> "We're tired, fed up with how players are treated in this country; treated like animals, treated like dogs"
> Carlos Ruiz

Record goalscorer Ruiz, who plays for Municipal, threatened to take the matter to FIFA, saying it was time the world knew the conditions under which players in Guatemala operate. The revolt was set to involve players from Guatemala's top two sides: Municipal and Comunicaciones.

The group was then symbolically joined by US-based winger Marco Pappa – the Seattle Sounders player fresh from picking up the Centroamericana Cup's golden boot – when he announced he would join in the revolt in an act of solidarity. With the majority of the Centroamericana Cup squad made up mostly of players from the two capital-based sides, the impasse would have represented a major blow to the team's progress, at least in the short term.

But then the sting was taken out of the players' resolve.

The Coatepeque president, Eduardo Avila, accused Ruiz of defamation and the league took disciplinary action against Ruiz. He was hit with a six-month domestic ban, which was subsequently suspended after he appealed. He apologized to the Coatepeque president and promptly re-joined the national squad, along with others who had threatened to take part in the boycott for an October friendly away to Peru.

The core issues that sparked the dispute, meanwhile, appear to remain unresolved. The players union has since said it is making progress toward gaining recognition. Representatives are seeking a standardised contract, saying the vast majority of problems for players in Guatemalan football involve unpaid wages and breach of contract.

Giving inexperienced youth a chance in Peru, Sopegno's Guatemala suffered a 1-0 defeat. After the game, he played down the squad's chances ahead of the Gold Cup. He said the team's tempo and ability in one-on-one situations had to improve. He also took the opportunity to call for greater unity between the Guatemala FA and national league bosses over the timing of domestic fixtures in order that the national squad can better prepare for international matches.

The worst of the tensions seem to have abated for now. But regardless of Sopegno's scepticism, the entire episode did nothing to help preparations for an assault on next year's Gold Cup in the United States – a tournament that seemed to hold much hope in light of recent performances. WS

NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

Di Matteo back in the game

Ex-Chelsea boss faces a big challenge at Schalke

Winning start...Di Matteo and his staff celebrate a 2-0 Bundesliga success over Hertha Berlin

No one can claim that new Schalke boss Roberto Di Matteo – who replaced the sacked Jens Keller following the team's poor start to the season – is unaware of what awaits him. He has joined a club notorious for its power struggles, out-of-control egos, panicky decision-making and a distinct lack of coaching continuity, having gone through 25 in the last three decades.

Too intelligent and careful a character to accept a fresh challenge without doing his homework, Di Matteo knows all about Schalke's reputation for self-induced chaos, and he cleverly made a wry reference to it during his first press conference at the Veltins-Arena.

"Nobody has achieved that [control] in 100 years here," declared the former Chelsea manager, thus scoring double points for his grasp of club history.

"You can't tame your environment. You just have to deal with it. Schalke is a passionate club."

After just three and a half years as club hirer and firer-in-chief, the much-criticised director of sport, Horst Heldt, is already on his sixth coach and has undoubtedly taken a risk in engaging Di Matteo. Since being fired by Chelsea two years ago, the Italian has not set foot in a professional dressing room. Despite leading Chelsea to Champions League glory in 2012, many still claim he played only a minimal role in that triumph, with the real leaders being his senior players and the ultimate success down to several slices of luck.

Whereas Di Matteo had top-class performers in more or less every position during his eight months in charge at Stamford Bridge, he will have to make do at Schalke with considerably more modest means. Apart from Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng, genuine stars are thin on the ground in this part of the Ruhr. There is plenty of young talent in Julian Draxler, Max Meyer, Joel Matip, Christian Clemens, Leon Goretzka, Marvin Friedrich and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, but too many of them remain prone to off days.

> "We are absolutely convinced that Roberto Di Matteo can stabilise the team and reach its Bundesliga and Champions League goals"
>
> **Schalke sports director Horst Heldt**

Di Matteo has been told in no uncertain terms his mission for the season is a top-four finish. His ability to lead and coach is about to receive its severest test. The task of galvanising the disheartened, correcting bad habits and working to banish inconsistency is not for the faint-hearted and he will have to be brave as well as tremendously persuasive.

Top of his to-do list will be the restructuring of the Royal Blue back line; a unit in name only this term. One of the main reasons for Di Matteo's appointment was his reputation as an expert organiser and, as such, he will be expected to make them a much tougher nut to crack, better drilled, co-ordinated and set up.

Will we see a repeat of the nine-man defensive wall he built with Chelsea granite in the Champions League semi-final and Final victories over Barcelona and Bayern Munich in 2012? Probably not. Di Matteo has always insisted it was a special tactic for a special circumstance – and Schalke fans would not accept it anyway, seeing it as a white flag before the battle.

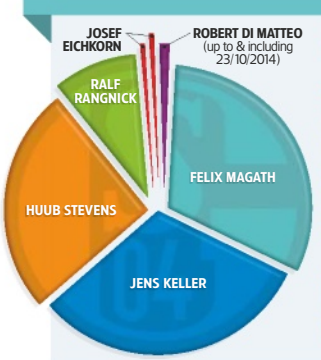
Another nettle Di Matteo will have to grasp immediately relates to the suspect discipline of certain players. Boateng, Jefferson Farfan and Dennis Aogo have all proved difficult characters, and in the final analysis the new boss will have to decide if they are worth the bother.

It is hard not to feel somewhat sorry for the departed Keller. A record of two Champions League qualifications in as many seasons, including a club record 36 points in last term's spring championship, ought to have offered him a little more leeway. But nothing in football wipes the memory banks more effectively than a bout of mediocrity. Schalke started this term by losing to third-tier Dynamo Dresden in the first round of the German Cup and managing only two wins in their first seven Bundesliga matches. After being held at home by Maribor in the Champions League the divorce was decreed.

Keller, a former youth-team coach who was first appointed as caretaker when Huub Stevens was dismissed in 2012, could never shake off the image of being a stopgap. The Gelsenkirchen top brass often gave the impression he was just keeping the seat warm for someone more illustrious and that whatever his results it would never be good enough.

Keller was not flamboyant, box-office or particularly media-friendly, but he delivered Champions League football and the millions that come with it, and – vital for Schalke's long-term well-being – blooded many a promising youngster. **WS**

SCHALKE COACHES SINCE 2011



	GAMES
FELIX MAGATH July 09 – Mar 11	79
JOSEF EICHKORN* Mar 11 – Mar 11	1
RALF RANGNICK Mar 11 – Sept 11	23
JOSEF EICHKORN* Sept 11 – Sept 11	1
HUUB STEVENS Sept 11 – Dec 12	63
JENS KELLER Dec 12 – Oct 14	77
ROBERTO DI MATTEO Oct 14 – present	2

(* *in caretaker role*)

TIM VICKERY
in Rio de Janeiro

Cramming is the name of the game

National championship carries on during international break

Kaka was a late addition to the Brazil squad to face Argentina and Japan in October, called up after Cruzeiro's Ricardo Goulart pulled out injured. The veteran, currently on loan with Sao Paulo, was delighted to be remembered for the first time since March 2013 – but his club president was unable to share his joy.

Sao Paulo have been mounting a challenge for the league title, but some disappointing recent results dropped them down to third place, a full 10 points behind Cruzeiro with 13 games to go. It is quite a margin to make up, but Sao Paulo will be happy enough with a top-four finish and qualification for next year's Libertadores Cup. They have a special affinity with South America's top club tournament: they have won it three times, and their first two victories in the early 1990s did much to popularise the competition in Brazil. Missing out this time would be a real blow – but the call-up of Kaka has made that more likely.

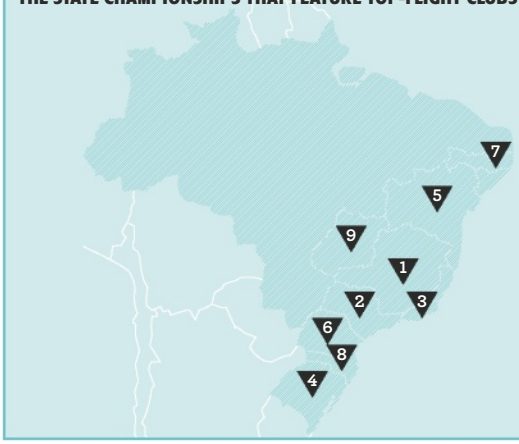
The Brazilian championship ploughed straight on while the focus switched briefly to the national team. So while he was on international duty, Kaka (and defensive midfielder Souza, another late call-up) was absent from games against Atletico Paranaense and Atletico Mineiro. The former are a dangerous mid-table opponent with an interesting youth policy, while the latter were level on points with Sao Paulo and trailed only on goal difference, making them direct rivals in the race to qualify for the Libertadores. Little wonder, that Sao Paulo president Carlos Miguel Adair was not pleased.

"Everywhere else it is given that on FIFA dates there is a pause in the domestic championships," he said. "I can't be satisfied with this situation we have in Brazil. It is an excess of disorganisation."

This chaos happens for a reason – Brazil's domestic calendar is cluttered

BRAZIL: STATE BY STATE

THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS THAT FEATURE TOP-FLIGHT CLUBS



1 MINEIRO
- Atletico Mineiro
- Cruzeiro

2 PAULISTA
- Corinthians
- Palmeiras
- Santos
- Sao Paulo

3 CARIOCA
- Botafogo
- Flamengo
- Fluminense

4 GUACHO
- Gremio
- Internacional

5 BAIANO
- Bahia
- Vitoria

6 PARANAENSE
- Atletico Paranaense
- Coritiba

7 PERNAMBUCANO
- Sport Recife

8 CATARINENSE
- Chapecoense
- Criciuma
- Figueirense

9 GOIANO
- Goias

Otherwise engaged...the recall of Kaka (centre) to Brazil's squad meant he missed two league games

with so many games it is simply not possible to stop for FIFA dates. It is a permanent attempt to cram five litres into a bottle that can hold only three.

This, too, has a perfectly simple explanation – that power in the Brazilian federation lies not with the clubs but the presidents of the local associations in the 27 states that make up this giant land. These presidents have an obvious vested interest in the preservation of the State championships, which usually run from January until May, just before the national leagues kick off.

The effect of this on the big clubs is nothing short of disastrous. They waste months playing tiny clubs and operate massively short of their financial and footballing potential. They are stuck in a structure that actively harms their interests and prevents them competing effectively on a global basis, yet do next to nothing to challenge it.

Change, however, could be on the way. FIFA's decision in September to ban third-party ownership (TPO) of players will have huge ramifications in Brazil, and could be a turning point in the organisation of the domestic game.

Investors and agents began acquiring stakes in Brazilian players as a result of two developments in the 1990s. Firstly, the players gained freedom of contract, weakening the hold their clubs had on them. And the global market in footballers went into overdrive, with Brazil typically exporting 1,000 players a year.

These sales, especially to Europe, were the link in the chain where money could be made. Investors, agents and other third parties took advantage of the clubs' precarious financial states to gain a stake in a promising player. It has become so rife it appears almost 90 per cent of Brazilian first division players are not wholly owned by their club.

> "Everywhere else on FIFA dates there is a pause in the domestic championship. I can't be satisfied with our situation. It is an excess of disorganisation"
>
> Sao Paulo president Carlos Miguel Adair

No time to rest... Paulo Henrique Ganso of Sao Paulo takes on the Atletico Paranaense defence in the Brazilian championship

Shortly before the FIFA ban was announced, Brazilian journalist Martin Fernandez revealed that in the space of a couple of days one investment fund had been approached by seven first division clubs, all offering a stake in one of their most promising players. The timing is important – it came in the run-up to payday. The clubs needed a quick injection of cash in order to meet their commitments to players and staff.

This leads to the central truth about TPO. The practice brings with it all sorts of ethical issues over possibilities of match fixing, money laundering and conflicts of interest. But even if all these problems could be regulated out of existence, a sinister truth would remain: that the money paid in transfer fees is leaving the game. Football produces the talented players the world will stop to watch, but when a player owned by third parties is transferred, the proceeds line the pockets of those not directly involved in the process of his production. There is an expression for this: asset stripping.

In an effort to secure the short term, the clubs have been negotiating away the long – hence the FIFA commission's conclusion that TPO could leave clubs trapped "in a vicious cycle of debt and dependence".

Meanwhile, Brazilian football has been falling further and further behind Europe – to the extent that one of the biggest driving forces for change is coming from the players, led by veterans with European experience. They have seen a model that works better than the one in their own country. In short, they understand more about their industry than those who run it in Brazil. Backed up by specialists and academics, the players, united in their Bom Senso (common sense) movement, have been putting proposals on the table, such as a more rational domestic calendar.

The big clubs – who would be the main beneficiaries of such changes – have been alarmingly passive, not wanting to rock the boat. Perhaps, while the influx of cash from TPO deals was keeping them alive, they did not relish the conflict desire for change would inevitably bring. Jose Luiz Portella, one of the wisest voices in the Brazilian media, argued: "It would be enough for five or six big clubs to get together and define guidelines of organisation and management, and our football would be different." The system of state federations, he continued, "would not be able to prevent change if the clubs really wanted it. They don't want it".

FIFA's stand on TPO could force them to be free. In recent times Brazilian clubs have become addicted to the easy money on offer from third-party investors. Turn off that tap, or at least restrict the flow, and the clubs might be obliged to take the harder choices necessary if domestic football is to come close to realising its enormous potential. WS

MARK GLEESON

Nations Cup hit by Ebola fears

CAF under pressure as hosts call for finals to be shelved

A growing angst over the Ebola epidemic, and the potential ramifications if the virus is to spread from its epicentre in west Africa, has had a sudden and potentially drastic impact on the continent's game, not least January's upcoming African Nations Cup finals in Morocco.

On the advice of a report from their health ministry, the Moroccan government has called for the postponement of the finals, fearing a possible spread of the disease in the kingdom from the arrival of fans for the 16-team tournament.

There have been no reported cases of the virus in Morocco to date and on the surface, the postponement request is quite drastic. But it does, however, reflect a rapidly growing concern as the World Health Organisation predicts the situation will get worse before it gets better.

By the time the finals organisers meet with Confederation of African Football president Issa Hayatou on November 3 there will have been more time for reflection and analysis of the situation before some hard bargaining is presumably entered into. But should the Moroccans insist, there is little CAF could likely do, even though they have already indicated they intend to dig in their heels.

Hayatou and his executive committee will meet the day before to discuss a possible postponement, but their immediate reaction to the Moroccan government's announcement was to make it clear they had never before changed or postponed the dates of any previous finals tournaments since the first African Nations Cup in 1957.

French media reported that Hayatou had put in an emergency call to South African Football Association president Danny Jordaan to put his country on possible standby, but South Africa has little appetite to host the event again, having done so last year in place of Libya.

The impact of the epidemic on football has been hardest felt in Sierra Leone and Guinea, where the death toll from the deadly haemorrhagic fever continues to mount.

Both countries are banned indefinitely from hosting any international matches, meaning they have forfeited home advantage in the qualifying tournament.

Morocco, ironically, have been offering Guinea an alternative venue and the Guineans have already hosted two qualifiers in Casablanca – a 2-1 win over Togo in September and a 1-1 draw with Ghana in October – plus an African Under-17 Championship qualifier at the Stade Mohamed V.

But Sierra Leone were not as fortunate to find a country willing to host their "home" games and instead they ceded home advantage to the Democratic Republic of Congo in September and Cameroon in October.

Although initially not given much chance in a tough group, the added disadvantage means they continue a cycle of mediocre results with little hope of eventually emerging out of the pack

In Lubumbashi, their players were subjected to taunts from the crowd. "It's been terrible for us, very hard," says Kei Kamara, a Sierra Leonean striker who plays for Columbus Crew in the USA. "We've been called 'Ebola' whenever we are in another country. People stay away from us when they discover our nationality. People are not properly educated, but I don't blame them.

"These countries know almost all our players come from teams in Europe, yet they bring doctors to our hotels, make us pass tests twice a day. You feel hounded. It is totally disrespectful."

Cameroon imposed preventative and primitive quarantine on the visitors. Two Sierra Leone federation officials and three travelling journalists were ordered by the local police commissioner not to leave their hotel and attend the qualifier because they were "not on the official delegation list".

Sierra Leone came through the preliminary rounds ahead of the group phase of qualification after Seychelles refused to allow them into the country in August, having them taken off a Kenyan Airways plane in Nairobi before the final leg of their trans-continental trip. Seychelles forfeited the tie on the orders of their health officials.

Liberia, which had born the brunt of the Ebola virus casualties, is also banned from hosting any international matches by CAF but is currently not participating in any competition. Football in the country has been put on hold to ensure there is no spread of the disease. WS

Health matters...Guinea (in white) have been forced to play two "home" qualifiers in Casablanca

> "The whole stadium was shouting 'Ebola, Ebola'"
> **Sierra Leone striker Kei Kamara on his side's game away to DR Congo**

CARL WORSWICK
in Bogota

Fortune favours the fallen elite

"Unfair" expansion plan fails to tackle league problems

Leg up...once-great America (in red) could return to the top flight via an eight-team mini-league

The men in suits have done it again. In a controversial twisting of league rules that took less than 24 hours to be signed and sealed, Colombia's 18-club first division will next term be expanded to 20 teams for the first time in its 66-year history.

Aimed at breathing fresh life into the languid competition following a drop in attendances and supporter interest in recent seasons, the new format was approved by 32 votes to four and is the latest in a long line of often madcap and convoluted changes to the domestic league structure.

Pressure for change had been growing from all corners for some time, but fans, media and coaches have ridiculed competition president Ramon Jesurun's latest plan as being unfair, out of touch and a quick fix to more complicated and deep-rooted problems. One journalist even likened it to Frankenstein's monster.

At the heart of the critics' argument is the form in which the two extra top-flight berths will be awarded. Instead of awarding promotion spots on merit – to the clubs that finished the top of this season's second tier – Jesurun proposed the invention of a mini-tournament contested between eight cherry-picked "traditional teams".

"As president it's my job to bring new ideas to the table," said Jesurun on the eve of the meeting. "Traditional teams that were once in the first division must return there very soon because the new teams haven't been able to attract any fans."

Over the last decade, and despite mechanisms to protect bigger clubs from relegation, several of Colombia's most famous names have dropped out of the top flight. Cucuta Deportivo, the 2007 Libertadores Cup semi-finalists, were relegated last year, joining former big-name sides Deportes Quindio, Union Magdalena, Real Cartagena, Deportivo Pereira, Cortulua and Atletico Bucaramanga in Colombia's second tier.

But it is the case of 13-time champions America that many believe is the real spur behind the bending of league rules. One of Colombia's "big three" alongside Millonarios and Atletico Nacional, the Cali-based club were relegated in 2011 following years of abysmal management and more than a decade of being shackled by a US government blacklist due to ties with drug cartels. Despite boasting an average attendance of more than 20,000 in a division that is lucky to see crowds reach three figures, the four-time Libertadores runners-up again look likely to miss out on promotion this season.

"Let's not kid ourselves, this was done to help America return to the first division, thus boosting attendances and TV audiences. In other words, to generate more money," claims Gabriel Meluk, sports editor of *El Tiempo*.

Debate has raged ever since the national team's historic World Cup quarter-final finish in Brazil on the slow death of the domestic game. Why watch Fortaleza versus Uniautonoma – a game to which only 177 turned up – when James Rodriguez is playing on the telly for Real Madrid?

"Change is needed," says Ivan Mejia of *El Espectador*. "Everyone agrees something must be done and we all criticise the system. I applaud Jesurun for at least having the balls to suggest an alternative."

But few believe that artificially promoting two clubs through the back door will lead to an improvement in the league's quality and have supporters flocking back to the stadiums.

Furthermore, fans have complained that the decision to change the system was taken by club presidents without any consultation. "Whether we agree or not, we always have to do whatever they decide. Our positions regarding this carries little weight," says Independiente Medellin coach Hernan Torres.

While most would agree change is badly needed, and seeing the once-great America back in the top flight would be beneficial for the game, the latest change sets a dangerous precedent.

Misty-eyed abstract ideas such as history and tradition would seem to be more important than a meritocratic structure rooted in hard work and administrative order. WS

COLOMBIA'S DOMESTIC CHAMPIONS

PADDY AGNEW
in Rome

Stoking the flames

Roma were incensed by poor refereeing decisions in the defeat to Juventus

Three penalties, two sendings-off, a hotly disputed winning goal and a 3-2 win for Juventus against Roma that ended up being discussed in parliamentary question time. For those who have witnessed their fair share of Italian football, there was an overwhelming sense of deja vu about this eternal "*commedia all'italiana*".

Although it is still early days, the signs suggest that there are currently just two seriously decent sides in Serie A: namely, defending champions Juventus and last season's runners-up Roma.

By the time they came face to face in early October, both had won all five of their league games and were three points clear of closest rivals Udinese.

Furthermore, both had shown some seriously good form in the Champions League. Roma had annihilated CSKA Moscow 5-1 and then picked up an excellent 1-1 draw away to Manchester City, while Juventus started with a 2-0 win at home to Malmo before going down 1-0, just a little unluckily, away to Athletic Bilbao.

In short, the meeting in Turin was set up for the first real "big game" of the season, a classic that – ever since Roma striker Maurizio Turone was denied what would have been a title-winning goal in May 1981 – has often represented a controversial flashpoint.

Not happy...Roma players contest another contentious decision from referee Rocchi

So it was...and with a vengeance, this time.

Villain of the piece, for Roma fans and some neutral observers alike, was the match official, 41-year-old Gianluca Rocchi, who is one of Italy's most experienced, international referees.

In fairness, Rocchi did not have a good game but this was a situation where he was little helped either by the players or by the passionate home crowd when it came to deciding on a number of incidents. More importantly, if ever there was a game that cried out for a touchline TV judge, then this was it.

Not for nothing, Italian federation president, Carlo Tavecchio – he of the "banana eaters" remark – immediately jumped on the bandwagon of post-match polemics by writing a letter to FIFA president Sepp Blatter, stating that Italy would be ready to "try out" some form of touchline technology.

That remains to be seen but, what is sure, is that Juventus v Roma will be talked about for the rest of the season and longer.

Rocchi's first decisive ruling came just 26 minutes into the game, with the score 0-0, when he awarded Juventus a free-kick just outside the Roma area. Andrea Pirlo's kick was blocked by the arm of Roma's Brazilian defender Maicon, prompting Rocchi to first give

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

ROCCHI HORROR SHOW

Gazzetta dello Sport followed up their criticism of referee Gianluca Rocchi (*right*) with an interview in which Roma keeper Morgan De Sanctis claimed: "Unfortunately, in Italy, [football] is governed by unwritten rules and those in power are always right and granted everything.

"The referee goes to the game with five assistants, he doesn't need another five. They (Juventus) use moments of indecision like these in a calculated manner."

He added: "With Juventus you have to make a general assessment: everything they've won in Italy is not proportional to what they have won abroad.

"And that makes you wonder."

La Gazzetta dello Sport

Tutto il rosa della v

la Moviola

Rocchi horror picture show

Hotting up...Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri restrains one of his own players, Alvaro Morata

another free-kick, only to change his mind following fierce protests by the Juve players and award a penalty to Juventus.

Slow-motion replays seemed to indicate two things: firstly, Maicon's arm was tightly bound into his body as he protected his face, and secondly, he was outside the area when the ball hit him on the elbow. Arguably, no penalty then, but Carlos Tevez gladly stepped up and opened the scoring.

Rocchi's second controversial call came just four minutes later. This time he awarded Roma a penalty after Francesco Totti had been held in the area by Juve defender Stephan Lichtsteiner. Again, the replays seemed to suggest that Totti had given as good as he got, but the decision stood. Given that this happened so soon after the Tevez penalty, some suspect that maybe Rocchi was trying to "even up" the score. Totti duly obliged from the spot to make it 1-1.

With two penalties awarded in the opening half-hour this was clearly going to be a very "*nervoso*" game. It soon became more of close physical encounter than one of dazzling football wizardry – with the one exception being Juan Iturbe's 44th-minute goal, which was the result of a particularly good combination with Roma team-mate Gervinho.

Just as it seemed the visitors would be going in at half-time with a 2-1 lead, another controversial decision changed the course of the match.

To the annoyance of the *Romanisti*, Rocchi allowed the game to run into time added on for an injury to Martin Caceres. Worse still, he then awarded Juventus a second penalty when Miralem Pjanic tripped Paul Pogba on the edge of the area. Even with the aid of slow-motion replays it was impossible to be sure if the foul had been committed inside or outside the area. Given the obvious doubt, Rocchi might have done better to award a free-kick rather than the penalty, which Tevez gleefully converted to make it 2-2 at half-time.

> "Juventus should have a championship of their own because they always manage to win"
>
> **Roma captain Francesco Totti**

And the controversy did not end there. The icing on the cake came in the 86th minute when central defender Leonardo Bonucci scored with a long-range shot, following sustained Juventus pressure. The problem here was that, as Bonucci struck the winning goal, Juve midfielder Arturo Vidal was standing in a clearly offside position, apparently blocking the vision of Roma goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski. Although the goal was probably valid, Vidal's position was enough to fuel the worst suspicions of all non-Juve fans.

In the turbulent aftermath of the game, the polemics inevitably raged far and wide. Roma coach Rudi Garcia, himself sent off by Rocchi for an ironic touchline protest following the first penalty, said that the game did no service to the "image" of Italian football". Totti said that Juventus have been winning games in this manner for years, implying that Roma had been beaten by the referee rather than by Juventus.

Various Roma fans removed their photos from their Facebook pages, inserting instead a note which read "Juventus have robbed this, too". Partito Democratico deputy Marco Miccoli pointed to the fact that Roma shares had lost two per cent on the Milan stock market thanks to "incredible refereeing errors". Juventus fan Marco Travaglio, Italy's leading investigative journalist, commented that he had not been so ashamed of his club since the days of Luciano Moggi and the Calciopoli match-fixing scandal.

Perhaps the only person to emerge well from the tsunami of post-match comments was Roma's American president James Pallotta, who called for everyone "to take a deep breath and to calm down". Pallotta went on to point out that in today's ultra-fast moving football, errors were "inevitable". The good news, said Pallotta, is that Roma and Juve are two great teams, who are headed for a long-lasting rivalry "that can only be good for Italian football".

In a country where club owners often fuel post-match controversies for their own reasons, Pallotta's observations – according to *Gazzetta dello Sport* – represented a "lesson in style". **WS**

MARTIN DEL PALACIO LANGER
in Mexico City

Star struck...Ronaldinho sets off the alarm bells among Toluca's defence in a Mexican league clash

Ronaldinho adds spice to Liga MX

Queretaro's surprise signing has given domestic football a much-needed boost

In Mexico, in contrast to what happens in most of the world, the domestic league has always been more popular than its European counterparts. With few Mexicans plying their trade for top teams overseas, and a powerful media backing, the Liga MX remains king on its own turf.

However, it has lost ground in recent years, with attendances dropping and TV ratings at an all-time low. An important factor has been the lack of big-name players. In the past, such stars as Hugo Sanchez, Ivan Zamorano, Claudio Lopez and Salvador Cabanas have graced the league. But while the competition is still incontestably the best in the CONCACAF region, the league's top performers are usually young South Americans looking for a springboard to the world's big clubs. The ageing international stars these days tend to move up north, to MLS.

That's why, when the rumours started that Ronaldinho could arrive as a free agent, they were treated as a joke. Why would such a big name choose to play in Mexico when a bigger pay day and an easier life awaited him north of the border? It was only when his girlfriend tweeted "We're going to Mexico" that the media began to take the gossip seriously.

At first glance, the only club who could dare make such a move was America, the richest and most successful in Mexico. Owned by continental media giants Televisa, "*Las Aguilas*" (the eagles) are well known for their publicity stunts, so signing one of the best players of recent times seemed like the perfect ploy to raise TV ratings.

However, to general surprise, the interested party were Queretaro. They have traditionally been one of the smaller clubs but were recently bought by Grupo Imagen, a leading media company who own a newspaper, several radio stations and some TV channels. They were willing to pay Ronaldinho $2million a year and to set up the team to play around him.

Several factors influenced Ronaldinho's decision. His brother, Roberto De Assis, played in Mexico a decade ago and loved the experience. The fact that Queretaro is one of the safest cities in Latin America and the quality of life is similar to a mid-sized European city was also important. Then there is the fact that the Brazilian speaks Spanish, French and Portuguese, but not English, and would therefore feel more comfortable in Mexico than north of the border.

The move was finalised with astonishing ease and Ronaldinho was introduced to the still-amazed Queretaro fans in September. The buzz was shared countrywide and shirts bearing his number 49 sold out in a few hours. Some still doubted the 34-year-old's commitment to Mexican football, thanks to the playboy reputation he harvested during in his time in Europe and Brazil, but his arrival was eagerly anticipated.

Yet not everyone was pleased. On the day of Ronaldinho's presentation, a politician from the right-wing Partido Accion Nacional, furious at the traffic jams building up around the stadium, posted on his Facebook account a series of racial slurs against the player, calling him a "monkey" and complaining about the "circus" created around him.

The rest of the country got behind Ronaldinho. Within minutes the hashtag #todossomossimios (weareallmonkeys) became a Twitter trending topic and several personalities publicly backed the Brazilian. A few weeks later he urged the Mexican league to fight racism in the only press conference he has given so far.

> "I've always been received with affection in Mexico. I am very motivated to represent Queretaro"
>
> Ronaldinho on his shock move

The hype surrounding Ronaldinho's transfer was quickly transformed into commercial success by both the club and the league. The average attendance for Queretaro games jumped from 17,000 to 32,000 while most rivals' stadiums have been at full capacity to watch him.

Results on the pitch, however, have not been as exciting. Although still superb technically, Ronaldinho has struggled with the league's pace. He missed a penalty on his debut against Tigres and has put in only one scintillating performance so far, with a goal and an assist in a surprising 4-1 victory at Guadalajara, Mexico's most popular club. That was the only one of his first seven games that Queretaro won, drawing two and losing the remaining four.

By mid-October, they were in ninth place but just one point away from the play-off zone, so they could conceivably challenge for the title if their star can show a little of the form that made him the word's best player when at Barcelona.

But even if his stint in Mexico ends as a failure, at least he has added a spark to a league desperately in need of it. For that, Mexican fans are truly grateful. WS

LIGA MX CHAMPIONS

MONTERREY	PUMAS	TIGRES	SANTOS LAGUNA	TIJUANA	AMERICA	LEON	LEON
APERTURA 2010	CLAUSURA 2011	APERTURA 2011	CLAUSURA 2012	APERTURA 2012	CLAUSURA 2013	APERTURA 2013	CLAUSURA 2014

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STEVE MENARY

Kiwi hero targets Pacific Games

Hosts face tough challenge, says new coach Rufer

Photo: Ko Po Hui

Learning curve...PNG's Valentine Nelson (left) repels a Singapore attack during a 2-1 defeat

The size of the task facing Papua New Guinea's new coach Wynton Rufer could not be clearer. In only his second game in charge, the side were thrashed 5-0 by the Philippines in October.

That result augurs badly for next July when PNG, currently 199th in FIFA's rankings, stage the Pacific Games. A quadrennial mini-Olympics for all sports, the football tournament is the biggest event in the Pacific. But before Rufer took over, PNG had not played for two years.

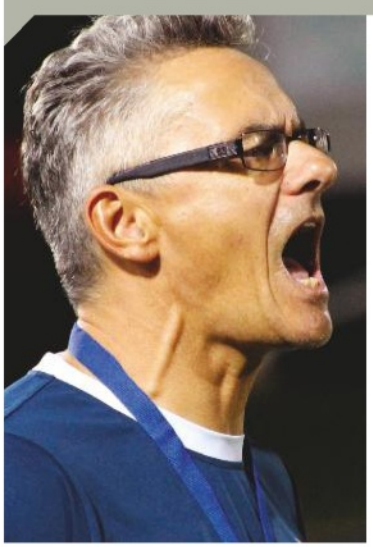
"We're ranked sixth for the men's event," says 51-year-old former New Zealand World Cup star Rufer. "It's quite challenging. There's some talented players but they don't get to play enough. It's difficult to put together, it's the funding. But the biggest problem is geography."

PNG occupies the eastern half of New Guinea, the world's second-largest island. Indonesia occupies the western half but the two countries had never played each other until last December, when David Brand took PNG's under-23 team to Jakarta for the MDC Cup.

PNG lost all three games but Brand says: "It was a great experience, especially as we only had two weeks' notice to prepare and get there."

PNG's trip to Manila was also hastily arranged. A mooted game with Myanmar fell through, so Rufer asked Philippines manager Thomas Dooley, a former USA international who played with the Kiwi in the German Bundesliga, for a game.

> "The conditions in PNG are pathetic. We've got to get players out of their own environment as there are major discipline problems"
>
> **National coach Wynton Rufer**



All to do...PNG coach Rufer

Lacking key players, PNG's display was a let-down compared to their only other outing under Rufer, when he used a personal contact with Singapore coach Bernd Stange to arrange a match. In their first game since June 2012, PNG went down 2-1 but Rufer says: "The boys were fantastic. We could have even got a draw."

They played sufficiently well for three Singaporean clubs to ask half a dozen PNG players to attend trials later this year. Rufer is also sending players on trial to Queensland in Australia.

PNG's perennial local champions Hekari famously won the 2010 Oceania Champions League, but Rufer wants to get his team off the island.

He says: "We're happy to play games away as the conditions in PNG are pathetic. We've got to get players out of their own environment as there are major discipline problems. They don't grow up in a conditioned environment.

"None of them are full-time. We've got a couple of players in New Zealand and Australia already but even the guys there are amateur really and only getting A$200 a week in the seasons."

In Australia, striker George Slefendorfas plays for Bendigo and midfielder Brad McDonald for APIA Leichhardt Tigers. Harry Hillary-Jenkins is scoring regularly for Papakura City in New Zealand, David Brown plays for Auckland City and youth international Felix Komolong is on a school football scholarship with Kings College, Auckland.

PNG's most successful recent export, striker Mauri Wasi, will be 34 before the Pacific Games but still hopes to feature after being called up by Rufer for the Singapore game.

Wasi left PNG in 2005 to play for Birkenhead United and has turned out for Waitakere and Waikato. Now playing in Auckland, he has just won a third league championship medal after Western Springs clinched the NRFL Division 1 title and a second successive promotion.

Wasi agrees with Rufer that PNG's best players need experience abroad. "It's the challenges that football in NZ has installed that make me keep on playing," he says.

"We have a bit more technically gifted players back home than in NZ but players here have a greater work ethic and desire to be as good as they can be."

That is exactly what Rufer wants to install in his PNG squad by July. WS

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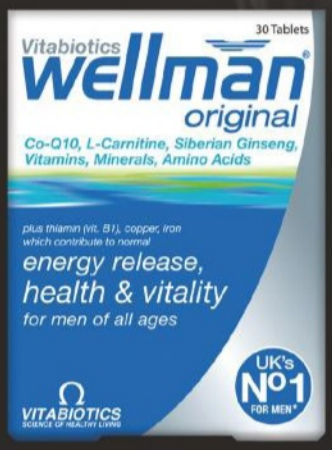

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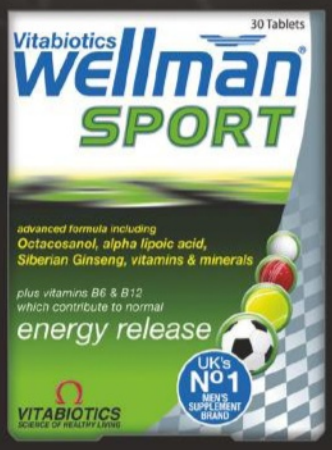

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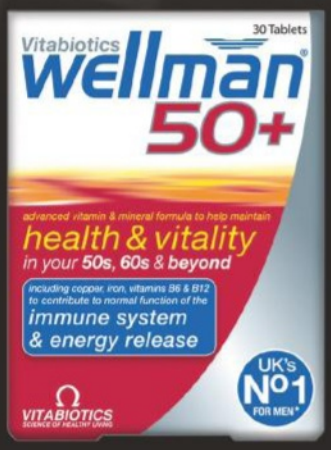

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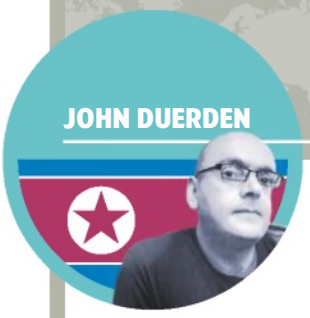


Looking to Europe

Success at youth level is first sign of new grass-roots approach

The bus wasn't an open top, but the victorious North Korean players were hanging out of the windows on a warm Pyongyang afternoon, enjoying the applause of their countrymen who were lining the streets of the capital. The reason was to celebrate the under-16 team's Asian Championship success, in Bangkok, in September. It was a ceremony as well organised and executed as anything that had happened on the pitch.

The victory was seen as a very big deal. Not just because they beat South Korea 2-1 in the Final – though that made it all the sweeter – but because this was a first sign that the policies recently put in place were bearing fruit.

The grass roots of North Korean football are being nourished like never before and this is coming from the very top. Kim Jong-un, the young leader of the country, may have been known as a basketball fan, but he has taken personal interest in trying to lift the nation's standing in the world's favourite game.

After the 2010 World Cup, changes were made – although there is no evidence whatsoever that these involved sending players to labour camps as was reported by some media and has been denied vehemently by those involved. The party still has some responsibility for the domestic game, but a new international department was formed and put under the control of the military. When Kim succeeded his father in 2011, the pace of reform quickened.

The lesson taken from South Africa – where the side lost all three games, albeit in a tough group containing Brazil, Portugal and Ivory Coast – was all about the team's lack of international experience. There were a handful of Japan-based players, such as Jong Tae-se and An Yong-hak, but that was it. After the tournament, a couple of other players went to Switzerland and Denmark but more was needed.

Neighbours, rivals and continental pace-setters South Korea and Japan have players in the big leagues – England, Italy and Germany – but the one stage that the big two have struggled to crack is Spain. And this is where North Korea looked to first.

Two years ago, Pyongyang started to send some of its brightest young players to Barcelona – not to the club itself but to

Proud...Jong Il-gwan (no 11) and the North Korea under-23 side at the Asian Games

> "These players are already champions. They are the first products of the system, and through them we were able to win"
>
> North Korea under-16s coach Yon Kwak-mu

ASIAN YOUTH CHAMPIONS 2014

	UNDER-16	UNDER-19	UNDER-23 (Asian Games)
WINNERS	N Korea	Qatar	S Korea
RUNNERS-UP	S Korea	N Korea	N Korea
SEMI-FINALISTS	Australia, Syria	Myanmar, Uzbekistan	Iraq, Thailand

academies in the city, such as the Centro Europeo Tecnofutbol, to play in the Juvenil Primera Division.

According to a source close to the North Korean FA, more than 10 players have made the journey for periods of around a year. Three of these played in the AFC Under-16 Final: Choe Song-hyok, Jong Chang-bom and the impressive Han Kwang-song, who scored a bullet of an equaliser, just when the game seemed to be drifting the way of the southerners.

"We have a lot of players who have played in Europe. They are excellent players," said coach Yon Kwak-mu after the Final. "Their number 10 gave us lots of problems in the first half, but in the second half we used the experience we have learned and coped with him."

South Korea's number 10 was Lee Seung-woo, who has been part of Barcelona's youth set-up at La Masia for two years. In the first half, North Korea's defenders spent too much time trying to kick him. Later, they denied him space, time and the ball. And it worked – because while the creative, attacking types have been in Spain, those charged with stopping the opposition have been in Italy to learn from the nation perceived to be defensive masters.

Holding midfielder Kim Ye-bom, centre-back Kim Wi-song and left-back Choe Jin-nam, all started in the Final, meaning six of the winners' starting XI had European experience. Yet until it was all over, hardly anyone at the Asian championships knew.

Not only that but two years ago Kim Jong-un opened an international football school in Pyongyang. Here, children as young as eight come and learn how to play, sometimes under a coach from Spain who has been brought in.

These new developments add to what is already a decent youth set-up. In 2010, North Korea won the Asian Under-19 Championship, beating Australia 3-2 in the final thanks to a hat-trick from Jong Il-gwan. He was also top scorer at the Asian Games, an important under-23 tournament that finished in October. If the 21-year-old had not been suspended for the Final, again against South Korea, many believe the south would not have scored their 120th-minute winner because the game would already have been over. Meanwhile, the current under-19s have qualified for next year's Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand.

The Asian Cup in January comes too soon for this new generation, and especially the boys who became men after that September night in Bangkok, but Asia and maybe the world is going to be seeing plenty more of them in the future. It may be worth investing in an open-top bus. **WS**

The future...students are put through their paces at the international football school in Pyongyang

The best is yet to come

The Juventus midfielder could be the subject of a record transfer bid next summer. Paddy Agnew reports

Do you want to bet that, next summer, Juventus and France midfielder Paul Pogba will not be the hottest item on the European transfer market? Despite the talented 21-year-old signing a contract extension until 2019 with the Serie A side at the end of October, there are many in Turin who suspect that the club may be tempted to cash in on a player who could be worth upwards of €70million.

Timeline

FEB 19, 2011 Called up to Manchester United's first-team squad for the first time and is on the bench for an FA Cup tie away to Crawley Town.

MAY 23, 2011 Wins the FA Youth Cup as Manchester United beat Sheffield United 6-3 on aggregate in the Final.

SEP 20, 2011 Makes his first-team debut for United when he comes on as a second-half substitute in a League Cup tie at Leeds United.

JAN 31, 2012 Makes his Premier League debut, replacing Javier Hernandez in the 72nd minute of the home game against Stoke City.

MAR 15, 2012 His European debut for Manchester United comes in a 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao in the Europa League round of 16.

Towering presence...Pogba has wowed Juventus fans since arriving from Manchester United in the summer of 2012

After deciding not to sign a new contract at United, he moves to Italy and joins Juventus.

AUG 3, 2012

Makes his full Juventus debut in a Serie A game against Chievo.

SEP 22, 2012

Scores his first Juventus goal in a 2-0 win over Napoli.

OCT 20, 2012

The logic of the good housekeeping regime that always applies with Juventus would suggest that, having managed to hold on to Pogba for another season, why not opt to cash in on a player who, after all, controversially moved to Turin from Manchester United on an out-of-contract, free transfer two summers ago?

Pogba will forever be seen as "the one that got away" from Old Trafford, but before pundits conclude that Alex Ferguson was losing his touch in letting the youngster leave, it should be pointed out that United were not at all happy about his departure.

Sources close to the club confirm that, in an attempt to keep such an obvious talent, United tabled Pogba the highest contract ever offered to a reserve player. By that stage, however, it was probably too late since, perhaps with the help of his Machiavellian agent Mino Raiola, Pogba was destined for Serie A.

At that stage, he had played just seven times, all as a substitute, for the United first team: three times in the Premier League (making his debut against Stoke City in January 2012), three times in the League Cup and once in a Europa League tie against Athletic Bilbao.

In the summer of 2012, despite not being an established first-team player, the 19-year-old still asked for a salary of first-team level. When that was not forthcoming, he refused to sign a new contract at Old Trafford.

In hindsight, friends and foes alike would say that United got it wrong. But he is not the first – and will certainly not be the last – young player to switch clubs in less than satisfactory circumstances.

At the time, Ferguson vented his frustration, telling MUTV: "Pogba signed for Juventus a long time ago as far as we're aware. It's disappointing. I don't think he showed us any respect at all. I'm quite happy that if they [players] carry on that way, they're probably better doing it away from us."

An indication of just how much United would have liked to hold onto the player came recently from Pogba's countryman Patrice Evra, the former United full-back who is now also with Juventus.

In an interview with *La Repubblica*, Evra described how he had been called in by Ferguson to speak to Pogba and try to persuade him not to leave, saying: "'*La Pioche*' [Pogba] is like a son to me. Ferguson sent me round to his house to try to get him to stay. He was crying his

FACT FILE

Paul Labile Pogba

NATIONALITY
French

AGE
21 (15.03.93)

PLACE OF BIRTH
Lagny-sur-Marne, France

HEIGHT
6ft 3in (1.91m)

POSITION
Midfielder

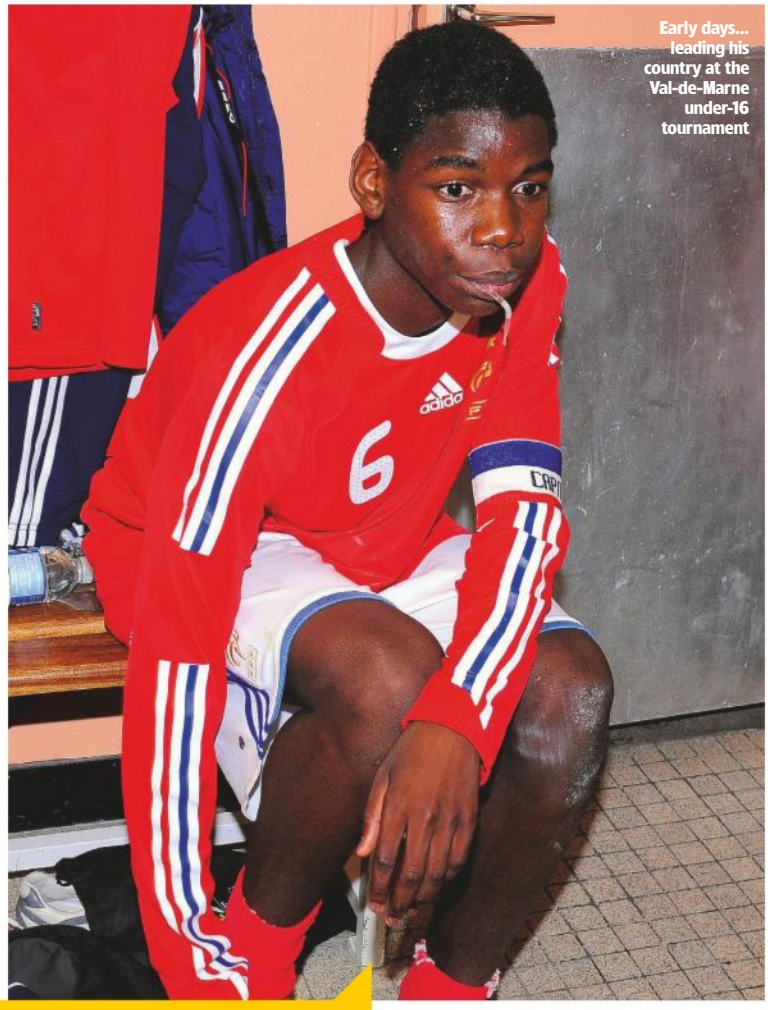
TEAMS
Manchester United
(2011-12) 7 games /0 goals

Juventus
(2012-present)
96 games/15 goals*

France
(2013-present)
20 games/5 goals*

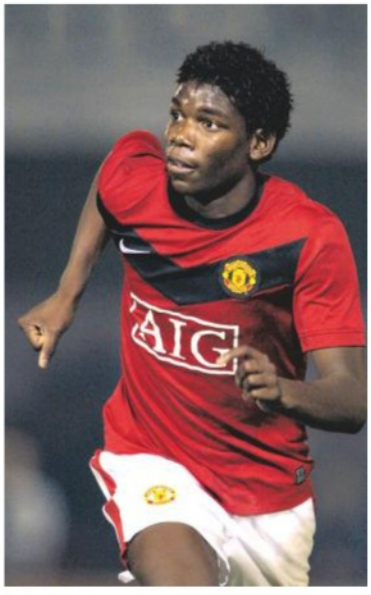
HONOURS
France
Under-20 World Cup: 2013

Juventus
Serie A: 2013, 2014
Italian Super Cup: 2012, 2013
(** up to & inc 21.10.14*)



Early days... leading his country at the Val-de-Marne under-16 tournament

"Pogba is one of those players who leaves you speechless. When he came we didn't know him, but after only three or four training sessions we were impressed by his enormous qualities" Juventus goalkeeper Gigi Buffon



Young Red Devil... Pogba endured a frustrating time at United even though the club desperately wanted to keep him

Delight...celebrating with under-16 team-mates

Makes his international debut for France in a 3-1 win against Georgia in a World Cup qualifier.

MAR 22, 2013

Four days later, he is sent off in a World Cup qualifying defeat at home to Spain.

MAR 26, 2013

Juventus clinch the league with a 1-0 win over Palermo, but Pogba's celebrations are muted after he is again sent off.

MAY 5, 2013

Captains France to victory in the Under-20 World Cup Final.

JULY 13, 2013

Scores the first goal, two minutes after coming on as an early substitute, in the 4-0 Italian Super Cup win against Lazio.

AUG 18, 2013

At full stretch... Pogba puts all his 6ft 3ins into an amazing display of ball control

Mino the max

Very few people in the modern European game can claim the title of "superagent". Jorge Mendes, the man behind Cristiano Ronaldo, Radamel Falcao and Jose Mourinho, is one; Mino Raiola (above) is the other.

Raiola is the Italo-Dutch middle-man who has handled every major move of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's career. He has also been by Mario Balotelli's side throughout the volatile Italian's peripatetic career.

When Paul Pogba, then a Manchester United reserve, hired Raiola, the Old Trafford hierarchy braced themselves for Pogba's departure to Italy. Rest assured, Raiola will be crucial to any move Pogba makes next summer.

eyes out, he couldn't sleep. I think he knew too that he could one day become as good as [Patrick] Vieira but everything had been decided. Ferguson knew only too well that one day he would be one hell of a player, but he also knew you cannot rush things."

Within a month of moving to Italy, Pogba had already made his first appearance for Juventus, as a 78th-minute substitute for Andrea Pirlo no less, in a pre-season friendly against Benfica. The rest, of course, is Juve history with Pogba establishing himself in the side so quickly that, by the end of another title-winning season, he had played 27 Serie A games and eight times in the Champions League.

The impact of that first season in Turin was devastating, with many ready to suggest that a new galactic star had joined the international firmament.

Of course, Manchester United should probably not have been too surprised that their relationship with Pogba finished badly. After all, his arrival at Old Trafford in 2009 from Le Havre had infuriated the French club, who accused United of poaching their 16-year-old player by offering his parents money.

The allegations became so insistent that United eventually threatened legal action, stating that they offered no "inducements...such as monetary payments or the purchase of houses" to parents of young players. A year later, and after FIFA had ruled in United's favour, the two clubs settled in a "confidential" deal.

Being wanted by different clubs is nothing new to Pogba. The son of Guinean and Congolese parents, he was born in Lagny-sur-Marne, a nondescript dormitory town east of Paris. At the age of six, he joined the Roissy-en-Brie club, a few miles away.

Pogba's former coach Sambou Tati, now the president of Roissy-en-Brie, recalls that by the age of 10 such was the buzz about the youngster that a rival club tried to poach him, telling his father, Antoine, that they would drop by the house to pick him up and bring him home after training. Pogba senior, however, had other ideas and insisted that the boy stick close to home where, along with his two elder brothers – Florentin and Mathias, who are now professionals with Saint-Etienne and Pescara respectively – he could keep an eye on them.

Those beginnings have remained with the player, at least judging by the fact that when he pulls up his shirt for his now

Scores his first international goal, in a World Cup qualifier against Belarus.

SEP 10, 2013

Claims the Serie A trophy as Juventus complete a third successive title.

MAY 18, 2014

Plays in France's opening game at the World Cup finals in Brazil and helps them to a 3-0 win against Honduras.

JUN 15, 2014

Named the World Cup's best young player.

JUL 13, 2014

regular goal celebrations, it is to reveal a T-shirt which reads "RLS City Boys". Most of the Juventus fans had no idea at first what this meant, but it emerged that RLS stands for "Roissy-La-Source", an area in Roissy-en-Brie.

After seven seasons with Roissy-en-Brie and one at nearby Torcy, Pogba stepped into the professional world when joining the youth academy at Le Havre, aged 15. In the meantime, he was going through all the France youth-team gears, from under-16 onwards.

That rise through the various national age groups has now reached an apex. After Pogba scored for France in a recent 2-0 friendly win over Portugal, national coach Didier Deschamps observed: "Everything that this boy does with the ball at his feet, you tend to notice it. I'd always prefer to have him on my side rather than against me."

There are those who will openly argue that Pogba is well on the way to becoming the most influential French footballer since Zinedine Zidane. And although Deschamps does not go that far, after Pogba's convincing performance against Portugal he commented: "I've already said several times that he does things out of the ordinary. Sometimes he tries risky things and he has got to learn to be careful about that because it can go wrong on you, but it is still fantastic to work with a player of his potential."

> "Manchester United is a big club but you have to think about yourself. You have to play. The coach told me there would be space to play, but I wasn't playing" Pogba, on why he left United

Not surprisingly, that is an opinion echoed by Pogba's current club coach, Massimiliano Allegri, who more than once since joining Juventus in the summer has said that the extraordinary thing about Pogba is that the best is yet to come.

At Juve, it did not take long for people to work out that the newly-arrived 6ft 3in youngster was something special. Not only was he fast and strong, but he also had vision, passing and shooting skills of the sort that lead to breathtaking goals when the mood moved him.

***Allez Les Bleus*... fending off Serbia's Nemanja Matic**

Stunning...scoring with an imperious volley against Napoli

For evidence of that, just watch his goal in Juve's 3-0 win over Napoli last November. Standing with his back to goal, just outside the penalty area, he latched onto an ordinary looking pass from Arturo Vidal. He flicked it up, turned and hit it on the volley: an imperious strike that gave Pepe Reina in the Napoli goal not the slightest chance. As the late Brian Clough would have said, it was as if he were playing on Brighton beach he made it look so easy.

With terrific ball skills, tremendous pace and serious strength, it is no surprise that Evra likens Pogba to the former Arsenal, Juventus and Internazionale midfielder Vieira.

Pogba himself feels that if there is one aspect of his game that he can improve, it is his ability in the air. Given his height, he feels he should be more effective especially at set-pieces.

So, where does he go from here? Notwithstanding his problems with United, he is seen as something of the model professional at Juventus in that he is a player who listens and learns, especially to team senators such as Gigi Buffon, Pirlo and Vidal. Furthermore, off the pitch, he causes no problems.

While the temptation to keep a player of his talent is clear, Juve are unlikely to remain indifferent to the interest of big spenders such as Chelsea, Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain.

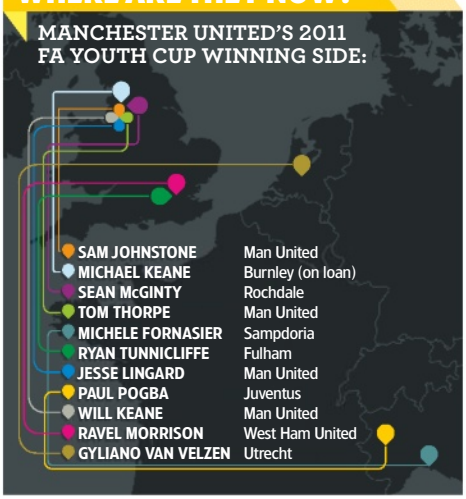
That is all for next summer. In the meantime, Juventus president Andrea Agnelli is enjoying the Pogba moment. Speaking in Paris in March, he said: "All these big clubs being interested in him is certainly not a reason to be worried. On the contrary, it is a matter of pride for us. Paul is an extraordinary player, he is basically a world heritage site."

World heritage site, yes, but one that could be on the move in 12 months. WS

Paul POGBA

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MANCHESTER UNITED'S 2011 FA YOUTH CUP WINNING SIDE:

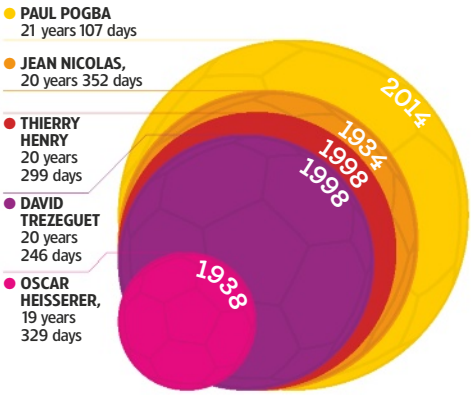


DID YOU KNOW?

One of Pogba older brothers, Mathias, spent two seasons with Wrexham, followed by a further two campaigns with Crewe Alexandra.

FRENCH YOUTH

FRANCE'S YOUNGEST WORLD CUP GOALSCORERS



FRANCE

20 CAPS

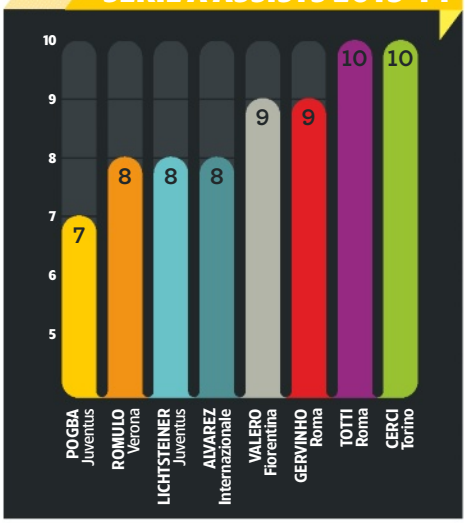
5* GOALS

(* up to & inc 21.10.14)

CREAM OF LE CROP

FIFA'S BEST YOUNG PLAYER AT THE WORLD CUP

SERIE A ASSISTS 2013-14



JUVE YOUNG SCORERS

JUVENTUS' YOUNGEST SCORERS IN SERIE A

2009	2012	2008	2014	2012
IAGO FALQUE	PAUL POGBA	SEBASTIAN GIOVINCO	ALVARO MORATA	LUCA MARRONE
19 years 24 days	19 years 219 days	21 years 316 days	21 years 339 days	22 years 47 days

(*up to & including 21.10.14)

Stars in their eyes

The proliferation of solo awards is a reflection of the game's current obsession with top players rather than teams, says Jonathan Wilson

Lionel Messi stood with his head bowed. He looked on the verge of tears, with his shoulders slumped. In his hands, he held the Golden Ball as player of the World Cup. Irrespective of the fact that the award seemed a little odd based on the evidence of the knockout stage, the moment jarred.

Of course he was distraught: his side had just lost in the World Cup Final. To make him collect an award shortly after the final whistle was almost cruel. Beyond extinguishing any lingering doubts as to whether Messi really cared about playing for Argentina, the moment seemed to hint at a deeper truth: FIFA, by presenting the Golden Ball then, wanted to enhance the prestige of the individual award. It might not be as important as the World Cup itself, it seemed to be saying, but the prize belonged in the same ceremony.

This valourising of the individual is a growing trend in football, one reflected in the hysteria that seems to surround the Ballon d'Or each year. In part, that's because the on-going soap opera of the Barcelona-Real Madrid rivalry has been distilled in recent years into the rivalry between Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, two exceptional players who seem to break new records every week. The problem comes when those records and individual awards become ends in themselves.

> "The game is too polarised on the individual. Stars are fine. But within the team, not without"
> Thierry Henry

But, in part, it's also the nature of modern media and modern fandom. The traditional fan, the fan of even 20-30 years ago, would go and watch his local team. He would watch highlights of other matches and the occasional live game on television, but essentially he would be invested in the side he could watch. Now, with the proliferation of television coverage, it's easy to watch live games from all over the world, and fans increasingly support teams with which they have no immediate emotional or geographical connection. The Premier League's apparent desire to start hosting games abroad is rooted in this globalisation of interest.

Those fans, necessarily, are more fickle, more likely to be drawn by a particular style of play or by a particular player who excites them. That suits the money men in football because it's much easier to market an individual than a team. Here is Ronaldo, they can say, with his majestic physique and array of tricks and brilliant goals, which is much easier than trying to capture a club's nebulous strands of tradition and the shifting cast of players .

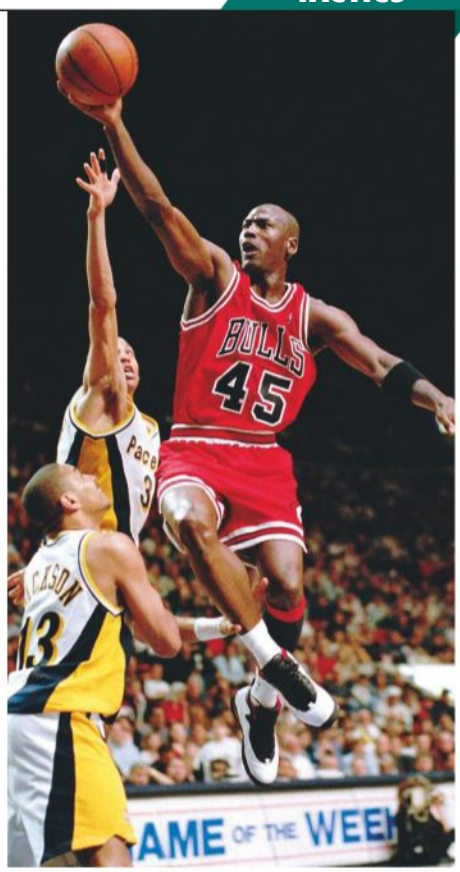
"Media and marketing people started to individualise football performance," says Thierry Henry. "People stopped highlighting the collective dimension of the game, how a goal was constructed, how a phase started. The game is too polarised on the individual. Stars are fine. But within the team, not without.

Bad timing...Messi accepts his Golden Ball award – just after Argentina had lost the World Cup Final to Germany

"I'll tell you, I grew up with Michael Jordan, who scored up to 60 points in some [basketball] games at the beginning of his career. He scored fewer when Scottie Pippen and Horace Grant came to Chicago – but he started winning titles too. That's the truth. He was a star within a collective. When you're not at your best, the others conceal your weaknesses."

The comparison with basketball is telling – particularly given FIFA's weird dictats on national-team kits which, in demanding simple designs and that each match should be a "dark" colour against a "light" colour, seem a deliberate aping

Real winner... Ronaldo is a hugely marketable individual



High flyer...Jordan was the star in an exceptional Chicago Bulls basketball team

of the NBA, which seems self-consciously to fetishise the individual.

There was a piece by Malcolm Gladwell in the *New Yorker* in May 2009 in which, discussing how Davids could beat Goliaths, told the story of Vivek Ranadive who, knowing little about basketball having been brought up in Mumbai, began to coach his daughter's under-12 team, Redwood City. Employing a little of what he knew of football tactics, he employed a full-court press and his side of no-hopers starting beating far more talented sides and reached the play-offs – before a ref who, Ranadive believes, took against what at that level were unorthodox tactics and began calling fouls for the slightest contact.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of that particular case – and the article produced a storm of critical reaction from people within basketball – what was clear to an outsider was the distaste for pressing within the sport. Zonal defence was even outlawed in the NBA before the 2001-02 season.

The collective Henry talks about at the Chicago Bulls is a team in the sense of players who pull together; it is not a team in the way that Arrigo Sacchi or Viktor Maslov (Torpedo Moscow and Dynamo Kiev coach of the 1960s) would have understood it – in which the component parts matter far less than the whole – but in which the system, by its very nature, if correctly and diligently employed, has a multiplicatory effect.

There is an irony, here, of course, in that one of the two great individuals of European football over the past five years or so, have been playing for a side that prioritises the collective over all else.

In fact it's probably the case that the greatness of Pep Guardiola's Barcelona team lay in the combination of the *tiki-taka* formula and the individual genius of Messi, the one enhancing the other.

This is a strange debate in which Guardiola and Jose Mourinho probably find themselves on the same side, in privileging the team, but Henry surely has a point. Thanks to the way the game is consumed now, there is an increasing focus on tricks and individual skill, filtered through PlayStation games and YouTube clips at the expense of the team ethic.

Sacchi has complained of the increasing focus on "specialists" and yet at the same time systematised pressing is accepted more widely than ever before.

A tension has developed between the tactics of the game and how it is consumed – and perhaps even how FIFA, with an eye on marketing, wants it to be consumed. WS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

	2014		2013	
UEFA BEST PLAYER IN EUROPE AWARD	CRISTIANO RONALDO		FRANCK RIBERY	
FIFA BALLON D'OR	TBC IN JANUARY	?	CRISTIANO RONALDO	
WORLD SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR*	TBC IN DECEMBER	?	CRISTIANO RONALDO	
WORLD CUP GOLDEN BALL	LIONEL MESSI		(NO WORLD CUP)	

** the world's longest-running world player of the year award, established in 1982*

ClubFocus

SAN LORENZO

The 54-year wait

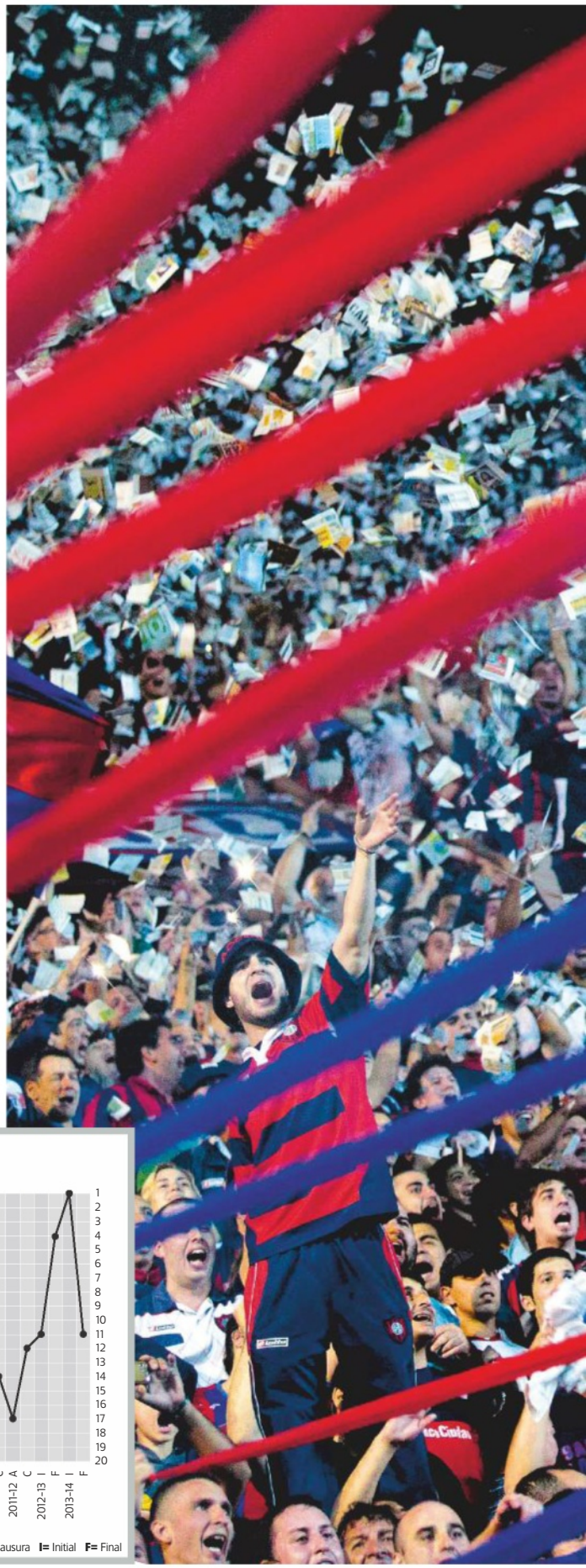
San Lorenzo's 2014 Libertadores Cup victory finally brought continental success to one of Argentina's best-supported clubs. **Joel Richards** reports

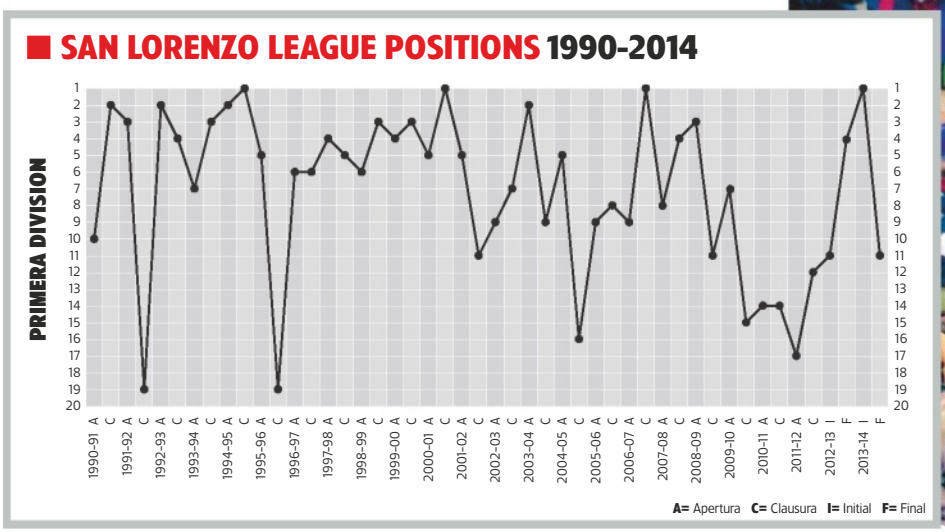
How to explain a 54-year wait for a club that is one of the largest in Argentina, that has long produced world-class talent, whose supporters were praised by Diego Maradona for their ingenious chants, and that once boasted the most impressive stadium in the country?

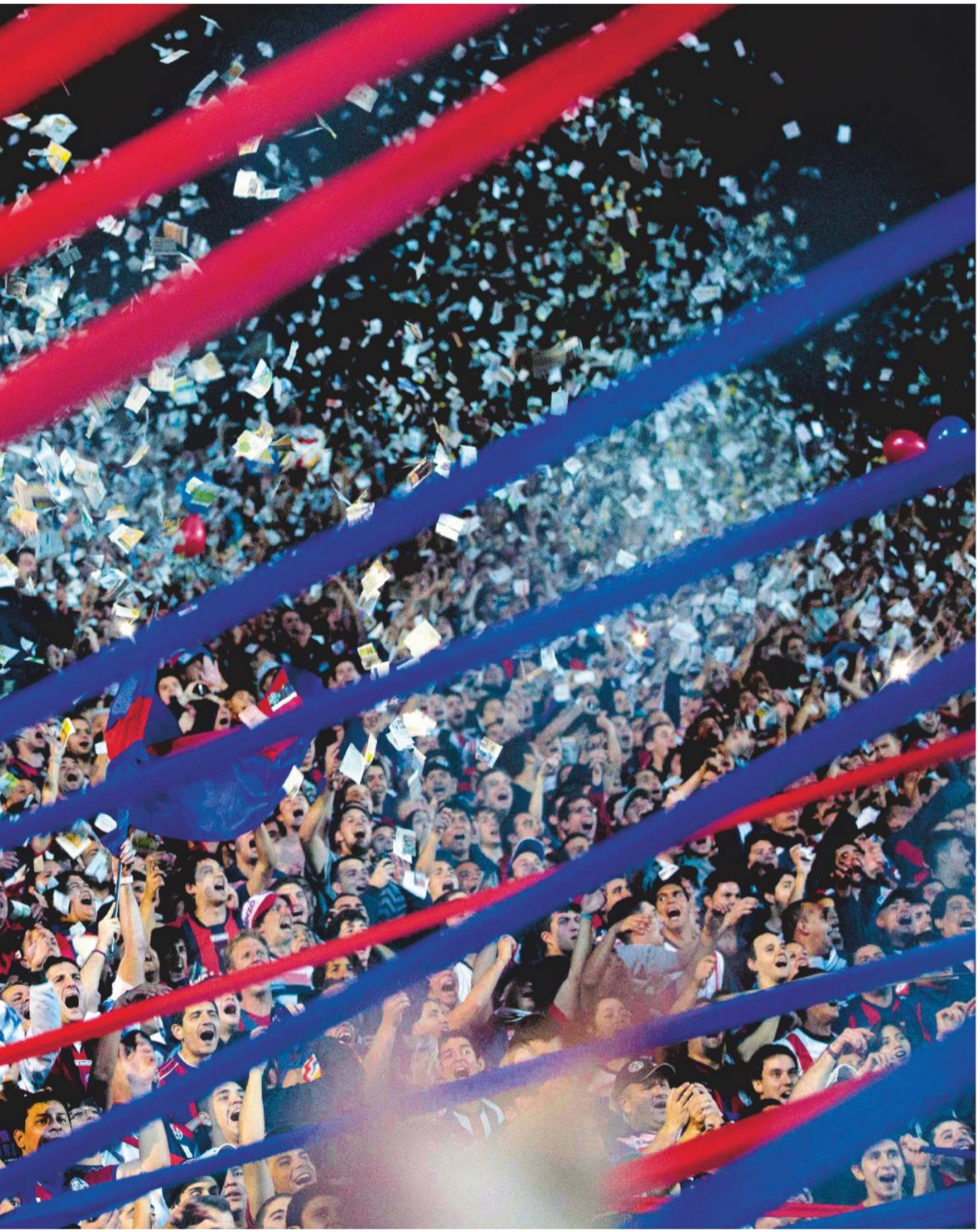
Many believed, or quipped, that there was a divine hand at work because the club that was named after a priest and who are often also called "The Saints" now had one of their own in charge at the Vatican. Others avoid name dropping Pope Francis and concede that anxiety and turbulence are merely part of the San Lorenzo condition.

The historic Libertadores Cup victory over Nacional of Paraguay in August not only paid up in full a debt the club had with its supporters, it also closed a remarkable two-year chapter in its history.

As one of Argentina's "Big Five", San Lorenzo endured decades of taunts from opposing fans for failing to win South America's main club competition. Independiente and Racing, who are both from Avellaneda, won the tournament in the 1960s, while Boca Juniors won their first Libertadores in the 1970s and River Plate won in the 1980s. Elsewhere, Velez ➤







At last...San Lorenzo celebrate winning the Libertadores Cup

Sarsfield, Estudiantes and Argentinos Juniors also lifted the trophy. For San Lorenzo there were narrow misses and, as the song goes, the Copa Libertadores became an obsession.

The weight of history goes some way to explain a slightly muted atmosphere during the game on the night they finally clinched the title. In Asuncion in the first leg, Nacional grabbed a late equaliser, against the run of play, with Julio Santa Cruz cancelling out Mauro Matos' opener. Back in Buenos Aires, the Paraguayans hit a post early on, quietening the party atmosphere at the Nuevo Gasometro as the hosts struggled to break down their opponents. Yet they clung on to a single-goal lead, scored from the spot by their infallible penalty taker Nestor Ortigoza, to finally lift the trophy.

At last there was the "carnival in Boedo" that, as well as the obsession, the fans sing about. Supporters filled the streets as they left the stadium in Bajo Flores, across the road from the largest shanty town in Buenos Aires, and headed back the to club's spiritual home of Boedo to sing and celebrate, as talk of making the trip to Morocco for the Club World Cup in December and watching their heroes take on Real Madrid dominated conversations.

It was an atypical year in the Libertadores, with none of the semi-finalists having won the competition previously. San Lorenzo, however, had experience in the dugout, with coach Edgardo Bauza having led Ecuadorian side LDU Quito to their first Libertadores in 2008. Bauza brought experience to a title-winning side, working with the poster boy – although no longer a boy – Leandro Romagnoli, the work-rate and industry in the centre of midfield of Ortigoza and Juan Mercier, and Sebastian Torrico in goal as the backbone of the team.

Winning the tournament was the crowning moment not only of the club's history, but more recently of a 180-degree turn in its fortunes.

Barely 24 months before, the club had gone through a nerve-wracking relegation play-off with Instituto from Cordoba. Relegation specialist Ricardo Caruso Lombardi was in charge of the team that maintained San Lorenzo's top-flight status, but he was unpopular with supporters for his style of play and his outlandish and outspoken media profile. The club was facing financial ruin and there were stories of youth-team players being asked to bring in their own footballs because there were none at the club. There was in-fighting in the squad and, like any other club in Argentina, there was the eternal issue of dealing with the *barra brava*.

And yet the turnaround was swift, starting with the change in presidency when Carlos Abdo resigned. In came the duo of Matias Lammens and his vice-president, one of the most recognisable faces in Argentina, TV showman Marcelo Tinelli.

THE POWER CURVE

The key figures behind San Lorenzo

MARCELO TINELLI

One of the most powerful men in Argentinian football, the TV showman and San Lorenzo vice-president now has a new role as head of the AFA's communications department.

MATIAS LAMMENS

Still in his mid-30s, he is one of the youngest presidents both in the club's history and in top-flight football. Says he will not continue after his current term in office.

BERNARDO ROMEO

The former striker is the sports director – a role that is still ignored by many clubs in Argentina. He is much more than just a go-between for the board, coach and squad.

POPE FRANCIS

The new stadium will be named in honour of the club's most famous and worshipped supporter. He was closely involved with San Lorenzo long before moving to the Vatican.

Holy blessings...Pope Francis greets the squad

The Lammens-Tinelli presidency brought in Juan Antonio Pizzi as coach and he quickly brought order to a team that finished the following two short seasons in 11th and fourth place. A year later they won the 2013 Inicial in a tight tournament, with the chasing pack of seven clubs within four points of the champions. Young players, in particular Angel Correa, emerged as the country's top talent, while Ignacio Piatti starred as the team's top scorer with vital goals in the title run-in. The foundations of the team that would lift the Libertadores, with centre-back Santiago Gentiletti and midfielder Julio Buffarini, were being laid. Pizzi opted to move to Valencia rather than stay for the Libertadores campaign and the board mulled over the options before hiring Bauza as his replacement – a decision that paid dividends.

These last two years fit the narrative of the club's history – a club that went 21 years without a title, that was the first of the Big Five to be relegated, in 1981, but that has the third-most members in Argentina and is undoubtedly one of the country's, and continent's, *grandes*.

The club takes its name after the progressive priest Lorenzo Massa. It was he who saw Juan Abbondanza, one of the founding members, almost run over by a tram while running after a ball on the street, and who allowed the group of youngsters to use land belonging to the church as their first pitch. They are also known as "the Crows", after the dark clothing worn by the priest, or "the Cyclone" for their goalscoring team of the 1930s. Famous generations of players are remembered as "the Dirty Angels", "the Killers" and "the Cambodians".

But part of the club's folklore is being written right now. Both the recent league and Libertadores trophies were taken to the Vatican to present to Pope Francis. Former coach Alfio Basile would later remember how he banned a priest from coming into the changing room before games, but San Lorenzo, fully embracing the fact the newly ordained Pope was one of theirs, set up membership registration desks outside the Vatican.

The Pope is of a generation of San Lorenzo supporters who lived through the long wait for the continental title, from the competition's very inception. In 1960 the club was Argentina's first representative in the new tournament yet to acquire its name in tribute to the Independence fighters and known as the Champions Cup.

San Lorenzo were 1959 Argentinian champions with a team including future World Cup-winning coach Carlos Bilardo as well as goalscorer Jose Sanfilippo. But the new tournament raised little interest in the country – leading sports magazine *El Grafico* did not contain a single line about San Lorenzo's semi-final defeat by Penarol of Uruguay – while in Montevideo they saw an opportunity. The deciding game in the semi-final, after two draws, was played in Uruguay after Penarol offered San Lorenzo 50,000 pesos to play there.

Leading light... Romagnoli in the Final

> "I am very happy about it, but, no, it is not a miracle"
>
> Pope Francis' reported comment on San Lorenzo's continental triumph

Something to crow about...a figure of the bird – after which the team takes one of its nicknames – stands under the club crest in the window of San Lorenzo de Almagro chapel in Buenos Aires

While San Lorenzo waited and waited, it nonetheless grew as a hive of activity for the local community at its old ground, the Gasometro in Boedo, in the south of Buenos Aires. That stadium became known as the "Wembley of Buenos Aires", where the national team would often play, and was also home to scores of other sports and activities for its members.

In 1979 the military dictatorship evicted the club, ostensibly to improve access to the southern side of the city. But zoning regulations altered and where the old stadium once stood there is now a supermarket.

For years the club was homeless, playing "home" games across the city, even at local rival Huracan, until settling in Bajo Flores. Opposing teams' supporters still taunt San Lorenzo with chants of "Where are you from?"

The "Return to Boedo" campaign has

Spot on...San Lorenzo needed a penalty shoot-out to get past Gremio in the Libertadores round of 16 in April

become a central issue for the club as it continues to find its feet. Two years ago the group of supporters running the campaign said they had mobilised 100,000 to gather in the central Plaza de Mayo to lobby City Hall into taking action and revert the historic wrongdoing.

When the red tape began to clear, and with the club requiring a trust fund to buy back their land, former players Ezequiel Lavezzi, Fabricio Coloccini, Pablo Zabaleta, Gonzalo Bergessio and Pablo Barrientos – who is now back at the club – all contributed, buying the equivalent of up to 50 square metres of land.

The ambitious project to rebuild an impressive stadium that also serves as a cultural and sporting centre is still under way. To its members, San Lorenzo offers basketball, handball, hockey, swimming, tennis, volleyball, martial arts, and indoor football amongst other activities. To the neighbourhood, it is planned to be a centre for the community. And the new stadium will be named after its most famous supporter: Pope Francis.

> "Many of the fans are 80 or 90 years old; they waited a lifetime for this"
>
> Leandro Romagnoli on winning the Libertadores

Ageless...a San Lorenzo fan invokes the spirit of Che Guevara as he roars on his heroes

To launch an attack on the Club World Cup, San Lorenzo brought in experienced Colombian centre-back Mario Yepes, but it appears that attempts to repatriate attacking midfielder Piatti, who played the first leg of the Libertadores Final before moving to Montreal Impact, may fail.

Meanwhile, Lammens says he and his board will not stay on. Tinelli has moved to the Argentina FA's communications department and is well-placed to be one of its key decision makers in the post-Julio Grondona era. Because of his TV persona, Tinelli elicits mixed reactions amongst Argentinians, but few would argue the domestic game could do with a change in fortune – much as San Lorenzo have enjoyed in the last two years. **WS**

THE COACH

EDGARDO BAUZA
Age 56 (26.01.58)
Enjoyed a successful spell at LDU Quito of Ecuador, winning the Libertadores Cup and also gaining Club World Cup experience before taking over at San Lorenzo and adding a second Libertadores trophy to his CV.

THE STADIUM

ESTADIO PEDRO BIDEGAIN (capacity 43,500)
The stadium is named after a former club president, but is known by supporters as the "Nuevo Gasometro" after the club's original home in nearby Boedo. San Lorenzo moved here in 1993 but have plans to move back to their old heartland.

THE KIT

HOME KIT **SECOND KIT**

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS

23 Jose DEVECCHI
Age 19 (09.07.95)
Highly rated youngster in the national under-18 team set-up, currently third choice for his club.

1 Leo FRANCO
Age 37 (20.05.77)
Veteran stopper with European and World Cup experience, brought in as reserve keeper in August.

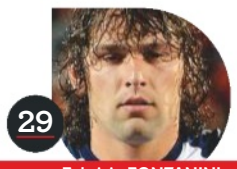
12 Sebastian TORRICO
Age 34 (22.02.80)
Hero in the league title win and during the Libertadores Cup campaign with vital saves and leadership from the back.

DEFENDERS

32 Ramiro ARIAS
Age 21 (06.01.93)
Youth-team product who made his debut earlier this year. He can play wide in defence or in midfield.

27 Matias CATALAN
Age 22 (19.08.92)
Youth-team product who has also been employed in midfield. Pacy and likes to get forward.

2 Mauro CETTO
Age 32 (14.04.82)
Central defender who spent over 11 years in France and Italy before returning under Pizzi. Was a key part in the league and Libertadores wins.



29 Fabricio FONTANINI
Age 24 (30.03.90)
Centre-back known as the "Puyol of Argentinian football" due to his hair.

14 Walter KANNEMANN
Age 23 (14.03.91)
Youth-team product who is comfortable in the centre of defence or filling in on the left.

21 Emmanuel MAS
Age 25 (15.01.89)
First-choice left-back who San Lorenzo won the race to sign from San Martin de San Juan in 2012. One of the best players in his position in the country.

4 Gonzalo PROSPERI
Age 29 (28.09.85)
Charismatic right-back, along with Ortigoza and Mercier he was one of the Argentinos Juniors title-winning players to move to San Lorenzo.

3 Mario YEPES (Col)
Age 38 (13.01.76)
Well-travelled veteran centre-back who was signed after the World Cup with the Club World Club in mind.

MIDFIELDERS

11 Pablo BARRIENTOS
Age 29 (17.01.85)
Back at the club for a third spell, a skilful attacking midfielder who replaced Angel Correa.

7 Julio BUFFARINI
Age 26 (18.08.88)
One of the team's vice-captains, he is an industrious and tireless wide midfielder with over 100 appearances for San Lorenzo.

24 Juan CAVALLARO
Age 20 (28.06.94)
Talented attacking midfielder, popular with supporters seen as one of the most talented players to emerge after Correa.

8 Enzo KALINSKI
Age 27 (10.03.87)
Central midfielder, lower down the pecking order, who was once linked with a possible call-up to Poland's national team thanks to his family roots.

5 Juan MERCIER
Age 34 (02.02.80)
Compliments Ortigoza in the centre of midfield. The duo won the league title with Argentinos Juniors and San Lorenzo.

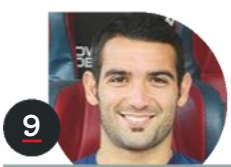
20 Nestor ORTIGOZA (Par)
Age 30 (07.10.84)
Hero of the Libertadores Cup Final with the winning penalty, a vital cog in central midfield.

31 Facundo QUIGNON
Age 21 (02.05.93)
Tidy passer who played for Argentina's under-17s. San Lorenzo picked him up after he was released by River Plate.

10 Leandro ROMAGNOLI
Age 33 (17.03.81)
Club idol and the most successful player in San Lorenzo's history.

FORWARDS

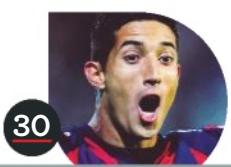
22 Nicolas BLANDI
Age 24 (13.01.90)
Ex-Boca striker whose early promise has not yet quite come to fruition, despite his talent and physique.



9 Martin CAUTERUCCIO (Uru)
Age 27 (14.04.87)
First-choice striker, boasting good technique who poses danger in the area. Much missed when cruciate ligament injury forced him out last year.

34 Gabriel ESPARZA
Age 21 (30.01.93)
Another youth-team product who is still working to break into the first team.

26 Mauro MATOS
Age 32 (06.08.82)
Joined San Lorenzo for the Libertadores campaign after impressive seasons with All Boys. Complete all-round centre-forward.



30 Gonzalo VERON
Age 28 (13.12.85)
Versatile forward who is often asked to play deeper or in a wide attacking role.

15 Hector VILLALBA
Age 20 (26.07.94)
Has been at San Lorenzo since the age of 10. Grew up in the notorious underprivileged area opposite the stadium.

(ages as of 31.10.14)

Facetoface

MATS HUMMELS

"Dortmund's way of playing perfectly fits my ideas on the game"

Germany's World Cup winner on coping with his new-found fame and why he's happy where he is

How strong is your appetite for the game after such an intensive summer and the many stresses of the World Cup in Brazil?
My lust for football returned very quickly indeed. As far as motivation is concerned, I'm now in a completely different place compared to what I experienced after the 2012 European Championship [when he was widely criticised following the semi-final defeat to Italy]. When a tournament ends with a positive result, it's much easier, simpler, mentally.

How are you physically? Your club coach, Jurgen Klopp, has been talking about the possibility of top players suffering from burn-out...
I agree. I also think we've long since reached the end of the road. Rotation helps, but only when the squad is injury free. It's not possible for players to compete extensively in three different competitions. The game today is more and more intense. In the past, there were less games and the tempo wasn't so high. It's understandable that we now have more injuries.

Because of frequent midweek games, a season almost has no pauses...
My personal experience is that every game is becoming more important. For this reason, the off-season and the 10-day winter break are vital and have to be retained at all cost. We have to make the most of these short breaks, to switch off and look after ourselves. It's the only way to stay at a mentally high level. With Euro 2016, the Confederations Cup and then the World Cup in Russia coming up, there will be fewer chances to rest.

What has changed for you personally since the World Cup win?
I'm being spotted in the street much more. People want autographs, to take photos, and it even happens on holiday. Sometimes, I end up saying that I can't give any more autographs or pose for more pictures. And most understand.

Would you like to swap places with your brother, Jonas, who plays in the third division with Unterhaching and can walk through the streets of Munich without being recognised ?
The first thing about my job I'd give up is being noticed in public. It's only a small negative side effect, but it's true that you can no longer be a private individual. That said, it's part and parcel of my profession.

Which moments from the World Cup are most prominent in your memory?
There are so many. Naturally, Mario's [Gotze's] goal in the Final. Then my goal against France, and the moment when Messi missed with a free-kick in the 120th minute of the Final. He shot over and I said to myself: "That's it."

You are a world champion, you've won two Bundesliga titles and played in a Champions League Final. What still drives you on in sport?
I've always had fun playing football and working on the training ground. Like lots of others, I'm ambitious and it's in my nature to win everything I can and to get annoyed when it doesn't go right. This will not change because I'm a world champion.

Philipp Lahm quit the national team, wanting to concentrate on Bayern. Can you imagine yourself making the same decision at the age of 30?
That I can't say. But what I do know is that if was in Philip's shoes, I'm sure I would have handled it in exactly the same way.

Lahm has gone, as have Miroslav Klose and Per Mertesacker. What will you miss about such long-serving players?
As everyone who has met him will tell you, Per is a great guy. His number one strength is his calmness and he knows how to put things into perspective. You can have a good chat with him about anything, not just football. Per, Philipp and Miro were key members of the team for so long; it will take a little rearranging.

You have a contract with Borussia Dortmund until 2017. When and how could another club tempt you?
I've always said Dortmund's way of playing perfectly fits my ideas on the game. When making a judgement on the best club for me, I think more about having fun than joining a team which is supposed to be better. If a so-called big club comes in for me and I don't think I can express myself with them, there's no point considering it.

Dortmund have conceded a number of relatively soft goals this season, especially from set-pieces...
Teams always go through such phases in a season and we shouldn't get crazy about it. When we won the championship in 2010-11, I remember us letting in last-second equalisers in games against Stuttgart, Mainz and Kaiserslautern, and when we defended the title the next year we had six points after the first five games. Seldom does a team stroll through a complete season.

Any conclusions to draw at this point?
In midfield alone we've had seven players out through injury recently. That's hard to absorb at any time. I'm convinced things will pick up if we have fewer injuries.

Because of Dortmund's disappointing start to the season, are you concerned you have lost too much ground in the race for a Champions League spot?
Our rivals for a top-three finish are the usual suspects, but I'm not sure any of them have made a dream start. In a post-World Cup season it's not simple to get it all together.

Interview by Oliver Bitter (Kicker/ESM)

"I'm all for [video technology]. I'd like to see a coach allowed to make one or two decision-challenges each half"

Facetoface

GHEORGHE HAGI

"Romania could have been world champions"

Now 49, the midfielder lit up the 1994 World Cup and helped his country reach the quarter-finals

In 2009 you set up your own football club and academy, Viitorul, who are now in Romania's top tier. Why did you do this?
Football gave me a lot and I felt that I owed something back. There was also a need for an important academy in Romania; that's why I started Viitorul. And for the senior side there was a need for the players to play for a club after they left the academy. Sixty to 70 per cent of the team come from the academy. We provide a lot of players for the national teams, from the youth teams up to the seniors. Almost 50 national team players started with the academy.

Why aren't Romanian clubs producing talent comparable to the great national team of the mid 1990s?
In Romania it's all "let's have success tomorrow". There's nothing in the long term. My view is different to that. I want success in the long term. That's why I started the academy. They don't have patience in Romania.

You played your club football in Romania during the 1980s. What was life like for you and other footballers during the communist period?
Nothing happens by accident. We felt really good at that time. We grew up in a sane environment. We were well brought up and well educated. We had good conditions for that time – that is why we got such good results and qualified for three World Cups [1990, 1994 and 1998] and two European [Championship] finals. We were talented; we were a good generation. The worst thing was that we couldn't play for foreign clubs back then. This is the only and most important negative thing. I like freedom – that was how I liked to be as a player, because I was a creative player and asked for freedom from my coaches. I was motivated and always wanted to be better. I had ambition.

Football was intensely political under communism: Steaua Bucharest were the team of the army, Dinamo the team of the internal security. People still talk about the regime, the corruption, the match fixing. Did you see any of that?
I don't know about those things. But I know there was a good academy to grow players. That's how this generation basically appeared. There were a few good clubs: Steaua, Dinamo, Craiova. Before that we had a system that encouraged a good level of play. Now we just have the money. In every country there will be two, three, four clubs that buy all the best players. Money rules right now. It is like that in Spain, England, Italy. Not all the clubs can be competitive. It is not only Romania. There are people doing bad things everywhere. But we have to concentrate on players. If we want good players we have to invest in them. We should concentrate on creating idols; people who do good things. We should point out the good examples, not just the bad things.

You are perhaps best known for your performances at the 1994 World Cup in the USA. Did you know Romania's team would be that good?
It was the highlight of everyone's career. And that's not just my opinion. I think the boys knew we could have been world champions and only the details made the difference. If it wasn't for the last five minutes against Sweden maybe we could have gone to the end and become world champions. I did an interview with the Italian press when I was at Brescia. Before the World Cup I told them that I felt Romania was going to go there and do fantastically well. We were capable of beating anyone.

Few players can say that they played for both Real Madrid and Barcelona...
I was so glad that I am on a short list of players who played for both. At Real it was my first experience abroad so I needed six months to adapt to my colleagues. But at Barcelona I was already a mature player and they had that attacking spirit – which is how I love football to be played.

When you look at those teams today – Ronaldo, Bale, Messi – would you have got into those sides?
They always go for the biggest stars. The best players. That is why I played football there. You always see the good players there. Would I get into the team today? Things change in football. Pace. Players are stronger than they used to be. You can't make a comparison between then and now. Football changes but the one thing that stays the same is that the best players in the world play for these two teams.

There have been several corruption scandals in Romanian football recently, with Steaua owner Gigi Becali and former defender Gica Popescu who are currently in jail. Is that a good thing for Romanian football and society?
It is not only in Romania where things like that happen. It happens everywhere. Football is not the most corrupt domain in Romania. It brought glory, brought trophies, it made people happy and it also brings taxes to the state.

Do they deserve to be in prison?
[The charges] are very exaggerated. It is not me who's making the justice, but in the case of Gica Popescu [who is Hagi's brother-in-law] it is a big exaggeration. I don't like to talk about it. But I am behind him 100 per cent.

Will we ever see another generation of Romanian players like we saw in 1994?
It is going to take us a while. It is harder for us, the clubs, now. But yes, otherwise I wouldn't work for it. That is my hope. I want us to challenge, like Steaua winning the Champions League in 1986. That's my goal, to be important. That's the final objective. That's why I'm investing so much passion. And money!

Interview by James Montague

"I was very proud to play for both Barcelona and Real Madrid. I was highly educated in football there"

Early season surprises

Nick Bidwell picks some of the unexpected success stories of the European season so far

1 Paco ALCACER

VALENCIA

Without European football for the first time in 17 years, Valencia's remodelled side are fully focused on improving on last term's eighth-place finish in La Liga – and what a fine job they and their young homegrown striker are making of it, winning five of their first seven games and remaining undefeated.

The 23-year-old Alcacer dovetails perfectly with the likes of Rodrigo, Dani Parejo, Andre Gomes and Pablo Piatti and could not possibly do any more for the cause. He scores, he creates, works hard and embodies the vitality and ambition of the new Valencia. Deservedly called into the national set-up, he won his first cap in Spain's friendly loss to France in September and scored against Macedonia in a Euro 2016 qualifier. With Fernando Torres and David Villa having shuffled off the international stage, he should now be a frequent *La Roja* flyer.

He dedicates every goal he scores to his late father, who three years ago suffered a fatal heart attack, struck down just minutes after watching his son make his senior debut for Valencia.

2 Andre ANDRE

VITORIA GUIMARAES

Third in the table when the Portuguese Primeira Liga broke up for the October internationals, Vitoria have so far proved the revelation of the season. And no one in their ranks has impressed more than the 25-year-old central midfielder Andre, a player who has fought back magnificently after being told by the big-shots of Porto that he was not good enough for the top flight.

Vitoria acquired him from Varzim shortly after he had helped them to win the 2011-12 third division championship, and his consistency and influence have been quite remarkable this term. In the opinion of many observers, it is only a matter of time before he moves on to one of the national "Big Three" of Benfica, Sporting Lisbon or Porto.

"Andre has everything a footballer needs," says well-known Portuguese coach Fernando Valente. "He's thoughtful, plays it simple, whether attacking or defending, is always in the right place and scores goals. He's what every coach is looking for."

Breeding clearly matters. He is the son of Antonio Andre, the tough-tackling defensive midfielder who won the European Cup and Intercontinental Cup with Porto in 1987.

3 Tarik ELYOUNOUSSI

HOFFENHEIM

Looking to improve on their best-ever finish of seventh in 2009, Hoffenheim set great store by their high-octane, adventurous attacking play and the perpetual motion of their Norwegian international left-winger.

Signed from Rosenborg in the summer of 2013, the diminutive 26-year-old has been in the form of his life this season. Enterprising and quick out wide, he is also a goalscoring threat when drifting inside.

Born in Morocco but a resident of Norway since the age of 11, Elyounoussi is by no means a natural on the flank. Earlier in his career, he normally played as a second striker, feeding off a target man, and when switched to the left at Hoffenheim, initially found it hard to adjust, tending to play safe and ration the risk-taking.

"I'm like a bottle of ketchup," he jokes. "At first you can't get any out. Then you shake it and all of a sudden, there it is."

4 Graziano PELLE

SOUTHAMPTON

Many pundits predicted meltdown at Southampton following the sale of five key players and the departure to Tottenham Hotspur of last season's manager Mauricio Pochettino. But the Saints have made a splendid start to the new Premier League season, with their powerful yet adroit Italian striker leading the charge.

Bought for a cut-price £8million from Feyenoord on the recommendation of new St Mary's boss Ronald Koeman – who had worked with Pelle at the Rotterdam club – the 29-year-old's physicality and strength in the air look tailor-made for the English game. After netting four goals in his first six starts – including a sensational scissor kick in the win over Queens Park Rangers – he is hot property.

Pelle's career is a classic up-and-down tale: the auspicious beginning when voted Italy's best young player in 2007; the wilderness years at Dutch side AZ, and Parma and Sampdoria back home; and then the volcanic eruption at Feyenoord, where he racked up 50 goals in just two seasons.

And to cap it off he scored the winner against Malta on his Italy debut in October, before which he said of his career so far: "It's been a long journey but finally I've got here.

"Better late than never."

5 Alessio ROMAGNOLI

SAMPDORIA

Sampdoria coach Sinisa Mihajlovic is so enamoured with his on-loan central defender from Roma that he has compared the 19-year-old to ex-Italy, Lazio and Milan star Alessandro Nesta.

Calm and composed in the heat of battle, worthy of top marks for his anticipation and positioning, Samp naturally hope to keep the Italy under-21 beyond next May, but their chances of doing so are slim.

As a lifelong Roma fan, the teenager's dream is to establish himself with the *Giallorossi* and according to Italy under-21 boss Gigi Di Biagio, it's already in the bag. "Mihajlovic was right when he called Romagnoli a more technical Nesta," says Di Biagio. "Next year he'll be a regular starter for Roma."

6 Jordan VERETOUT

NANTES

Forced to miss three games towards the end of last season after injuring his knee when trying to hurdle a tramway barrier on a night out, the defensive midfielder has proved considerably more sure-footed this term, providing much of the impetus as Nantes push for their first European qualification in almost 15 years.

The club has a long and rich tradition of churning out engine-room regulators with extra helpings of technique and intelligence, with the roll-call of excellence including Didier Deschamps, Marcel Desailly, Christian Karembeu and Jeremy Toulalan.

Hyperactive, clever in his support play and distribution, and a natural reader of the game, local lad Veretout is shaped in the same mould.

A world champion in 2013 with the French under-20s, he has been on Nantes' books since the age of nine and, still only 21, already has three seasons of Ligue 1 service to his name.

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Keir Radnedge

THE INSIDER

The expert view on events off the pitch

Olympic question returns to haunt England

Under-21 success will open up old debate over representative side

New horizons...Saido Berahino (right) and his England under-21 team-mates could yet be in the chase for Olympic gold in Rio

England's progress to next year's finals of the European Under-21 Championship, having beaten Croatia in the play-offs, has stirred the haunting Olympic football spectre again.

If Gareth Southgate's side finish in the top four in the Czech Republic next June they would qualify to play at the Rio Olympic Games the following year. But, of course, England does not compete individually at the Games but only as one constituent region under the purview of the British Olympic Association.

Right now, remembering the "will they, won't they" wrangling ahead of London 2012, it is hard to believe that the football associations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will fancy another such political bloodletting.

But by next summer – as other domestic sports raise their profiles ahead of the race to Rio and the broadcasters start to revisit the London party legacy – so the question will be asked with more urgency. If they qualify, should England take on the BOA mantle and go to Brazil?

Ahead of London the three other home nations ran scared from the idea for fear of jeopardising their football independence. But since then the issue has been shaken up and kicked around within FIFA. The British quartet are safe and secure within the law-making International Board and they acquiesced in the scrapping of the British vice-presidency.

> Much may depend on the temperature after UEFA chooses its representative for a FIFA vice-presidency allocated to Britain

In this reformed context, much may depend on the temperature after UEFA, next spring in Vienna, chooses its representative for a FIFA vice-presidency allocated to Britain.

David Gill, the former Manchester United chief executive and already on the UEFA ExCo, has had his arm twisted into standing for England. Up against him will be Scottish FA president Campbell Ogilvie and his FA of Wales counterpart Trevor Lloyd Hughes. The informal "rotation" system means Northern Ireland will not be running a candidate to succeed Jim Boyce.

Away from politics and back to football. Ask Roy Hodgson and Southgate: if you qualify for Rio would you want to take a team of young England hopefuls out and around Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Salvador, Sao Paulo and Maracana? A football man can offer only one response.

Plans put back...Germany's Olympic federation hoped to put Berlin forward as a venue for the 2024 showpiece

Germans in poll position for Euro 2024

Germany's "unofficially official" pursuit of the 2024 European Championship finals is intriguing because it bucks a trend.

The DFB is confident of success even though bidding has yet to be opened formally by UEFA. England's support is guaranteed for leaving the 2020 route free for Wembley, and presumably other such treaties are in place.

What's notable about the German bid is that it runs against the tide of western European nations turning their backs on the costs and complications of hosting sport's mega events. More and more the nouveau-riche autocracies from far-east Europe and Asia are leading the way.

The clarity with which Germany has stepped out has also effectively undermined a plan by the country's Olympic sports federation to run Berlin or Hamburg for the summer Games in 2024. It has already delayed until next year a decision between the cities (local referenda permitting) and may also shelve an Olympic bid until 2028.

After all, as Bundesliga CEO Christian Seifert notes in talking up the success of the "German model", football is the dominant sport in the country. Handball, cycling and motorsport have their followers, but are no serious competition for TV coverage and sponsorship.

Romario joins the old enemy

Having whinged and whined about the corruption-laced iniquities of the Brazilian football establishment, Romario, is set to join them. If you can't beat them...

The 48-year-old former World Cup winner followed up his senate election success by becoming sole candidate for the presidency of second division America. He says he promised his late father, Edevair, to strive to put America

Breaking ranks...Romario

back on the Brazilian football map.

"It's always been the club of my heart," he said – along, presumably, with Vasco da Gama, PSV, Barcelona, Flamengo, Valencia, Fluminense, Al Sadd, Miami FC and Adelaide United.

At least America were the last club to whom Romario was contracted. In 2009, aged 43, he played 37 minutes as a substitute in a Rio league second division title-clinching 2-0 win over Artsul.

Romario was remarkably quiet during the World Cup party in Brazil. Doubtless busy planning his election campaign.

WatchGate rumbles on

The storm over WatchGate spilled over from the World Cup and across the various sports/business conferences which proliferate in the autumn. Any FIFA ExCo member who dared show his (or her) face found inquisitive journalists not so much looking them in the eye as looking them in the cuff.

Indeed, FIFA's Belgian medical chief Michel D'Hooghe appeared surprised at being allowed to talk first – while in London – about head injuries rather than about wrist decorations.

At the World Cup, Brazil's CBF gave a £16,000 luxury watch to all the FIFA ExCo members plus presidents of all the finalist nations (including Greg Dyke, as chairman of the Football Association). This was a gift to mark the CBF's centenary and, no doubt, various trinkets were exchanged in the other direction.

Gift giving is a standard feature of sport congresses, tournaments and even one-off official dinners before international matches. The value of the gift is a different issue, and this is where the Brazilians incurred the wrath of FIFA ethics chief Michael Garcia and audit chairman Domenico Scala.

D'Hooghe did not find the watch in his own personal goody bag until a week later. He gave it to a friend attending the finals and has since had "the humiliation" of having to ask for it back to hand in to Garcia's office.

"The most poisoned present I have ever received," he said.

To declare an interest, I – along with other journalists – have received various gifts at conferences and bidding events down the years: flash drives, CDs, caps, pens and notepads, plus an eclectic collection of losing bid T-shirts.

What am I offered for "Austria-Hungary 2000: The Danube Option"?

Three months to go before the declared runners for the FIFA presidential election line-up at the starting gate. Just to recap: odds-on favourite remains incumbent Swiss Sepp Blatter, 78; declared outsider is Frenchman Jerome Champagne, 56; publicly considering whether to stand is the 2018-2022 bid inspector from Chile, Harold Mayne-Nicholls, 53.

There could be at least two others, but Michel Platini will not be among them.

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Talentscout

Carlos RIVAS

CLUB	Deportivo Cali
COUNTRY	Colombia
POSITION	Forward
AGE	20 (15.04.94)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Once Caldas

"I bunked off school to go and play football," remembers Rivas, who gave up on his education at the age of 13. "My dad took me to work on a building site and I would spend the mornings sweeping up the litter and drilling holes."

But these days the 20-year-old Colombian is building one of the most promising careers in South American football.

All of which makes it all the more apparent that his first club made a considerable blunder in letting him go.

Rivas grew up in a small town on the outskirts of the city of Cali and in 2009 local giants America had him in their youth ranks. "I was there for six months but I didn't stay," he recalls. "I've always been a striker, but they played me at left-back. I was miles away from the goal and I'm not a defender."

It was a mistake that was quickly rectified by Once Caldas in the city of Manizales, who gave Rivas his first contract. Previously on the coaching staff at Manchester City, Juan Carlos Osorio is one of Colombia's most interesting coaches and in his time with Once Caldas he soon spotted the youngster's potential.

Rivas was handed his debut in 2011 and he made a goal for a team-mate, but he recalls that "I had two clear chances and couldn't take them; I was too nervous".

Rivas shivered in the cool mountain air of Manizales, but made a name for himself as a hot property.

> "My game has plenty of power. I'm quick, and I can score goals and set them up"
>
> Carlos Rivas

In June of 2013 he moved back home to join Deportivo Cali, where he has since progressed from being a bit-part sub to the main attacking weapon of a side showing impressive form under rookie coach Hector Cardenas.

Rivas cut a gnat-like little figure in his opening games. But without losing the elusive quality of his running he is filling out physically and can generate considerable power with his left-footed shooting. He can still sometimes snatch at his shots, but his capacity to go for goal early, and with little warning, is catching keepers unawares.

Just as striking is the range of his movement and the versatility of his game. He can drop to pick up possession and launch a counter-attack with a surging run from deep. He is also comfortable hanging on the shoulder of the last defender. He can float across the attacking line, cutting in from the right or going outside down the left. And he now hopes that his movement can carry him across the Atlantic.

Rivas did not hang around for too many geography lessons in school, but he has a clear idea of where he wants to go – with England and Italy being his preferred destinations.

The city of Cali grew on the production of sugar and while Rivas may still be a little unrefined, he is set to be a sweet footballing export.

Tim Vickery

BERNARDO Silva

CLUB	Monaco (on loan, Fra)
COUNTRY	Portugal
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	20 (10.08.94)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Benfica

In winger Ivan Cavaleiro and attacking midfielder Bernardo, Benfica boss Jorge Jesus has two of Portugal's most exciting prospects at his disposal. Yet a reluctance to make use of the club's academy recruits has seen both go out on loan to further their careers.

While Cavaleiro signed up with Deportivo La Coruna in Spain, his fellow 20-year-old has joined the Portuguese colony at Monaco.

For a player with so much ability to open up defences, Bernardo made just one fleeting substitute appearance for Benfica last season and, having outgrown a diet of second division football with the club's B team, he jumped at the chance of a 12-month stint in Monte Carlo, where he has enjoyed far more playing time under coach Leonardo Jardim.

At his best as a central playmaker but mainly deployed on the right flank by his fellow countryman Jardim, the Portugal under-21 starlet is a skilful dribbler who was dubbed "Messizinho" by Benfica youth coach Fernando Chalana. The left-footer might not be the quickest, but his low centre of gravity and trickery keeps him one step ahead of his opponents.

"Bernardo was seven when he came to the Benfica football school, and from that day on he has had to learn to compensate for his smallish build," says Helena Costa, who was his first coach at Benfica and – for a few weeks this summer – made history by taking charge of French second division outfit Clermont.

"He often was playing against kids who were almost twice his size and so had to find a way to avoid challenges, to think before everyone else."

At the end of the season, Bernardo will have to decide whether to return to the team he loves above all else or make a permanent move to a club that really appreciates him. His current arrangement with Monaco includes an option to buy – and given that his agent, Jorge Mendes, has links with the Ligue 1 side, a future in the Mediterranean principality looks the most likely.

Nick Bidwell

Bernardo was named as one of Europe's top-10 talents in his age group at last year's Euro Under-19 Championship

Antonio RUDIGER

CLUB	Stuttgart
COUNTRY	Germany
POSITION	Defender
AGE	21 (03.03.93)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	May 2014, v Poland
CAPS	4 (0 goals)

Bogged down by financial woes, transfer-market mistakes and a chronic instability in the coaching department, Stuttgart have been battling at the wrong end of the Bundesliga for the past two years. But at least German international Rudiger offers some encouragement – for the meantime, at least.

A first-teamer at the Mercedes-Benz Arena since January 2012, the central defender or right-back was born in Berlin of a German father and a mother from Sierra Leone.

"He has incredible potential," says Thomas Schneider, the *Nationalmannschaft* assistant-coach who was his boss at Stuttgart last season. "He has the talent to do great things in the years to come.

"He plays with such power, force and tempo. He reminds me of Jerome Boateng. From here on in, 'Toni' needs to be steady, build up his experience and look to become more consistent."

Aware of the youngster's pedigree – he was Germany Under-19s' player of the year in 2012 – national coach Joachim Low did not hesitate to bring him on board with the seniors. And with Philipp Lahm and Per Mertesacker retiring from international football in the wake of the World Cup triumph last summer, the Berliner looks set to take full advantage.

He can, however, overdo the rough stuff or lose concentration on occasion, but don't bet on those rough edges remaining for too long. Challenges, as far as he is concerned, are there to be met head on – as he did three years ago when taking the momentous decision to swop the Borussia Dortmund youth ranks for Stuttgart.

Many at Dortmund thought he had taken leave of his senses, but for him it was simply a case of hard-nosed logic.

"In Dortmund, I would have remained in the youth team," says Rudiger, whose half-brother Sahr Senesie played for Dortmund and Germany under-21s. "Stuttgart, on the other hand, offered me the chance to play for their reserves in the national third division."

But having become frustrated by Stuttgart's apparent unwillingness to negotiate a new contract, overseas sides Monaco, Porto, Chelsea and Manchester United have all been linked with moves to take him on the next step of his career path.

Nick Bidwell

"I am convinced that 'Toni' is one of the talents that will go to the very top. There were many enquiries from top Premier League clubs when I was coach of Stuttgart" Thomas Schneider

Martin ODEGAARD

CLUB	Stromsgodset
COUNTRY	Norway
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	15 (17.12.98)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	August 2014, v United Arab Emirates
CAPS	2 (0 goals)

Already the youngest player to represent Norway, Odegaard's appearance as a substitute for his country against Bulgaria in October's Euro qualifier made him – at 15 years and 300 days – the youngest person ever to play in the competition.

With his Messi-like dribbling and mesmerising stop-start moves, he has the world at his feet. And over the past few months, technical directors at all the top football addresses have taken to decorating their offices with portraits of the left-footed attacking midfield prodigy. According to his father, Hans Erik Odegaard – himself a former long-serving Stromsgodset midfielder – no fewer than 30 major European clubs have made approaches for his son.

Leading Spanish sports paper *Marca* claims that Real Madrid have bid €12million for the youngster, while Oslo tabloid *VG* has it on good authority that a Paris Saint-Germain bigwig has been ringing Norwegian federation general-secretary Kjetil Siem for information. Barcelona, meanwhile, had three scouts checking out his progress during Stromsgodset's league game with Sogndal, and Odegaard junior has already visited the facilities at Manchester United, Bayern Munich and Stuttgart.

So how refreshing it is that neither the player nor his father seem to be falling victim to the hype and the hysteria. The down-to-earth teenager clearly has a wise head on old shoulders, and Hans Erik Odegaard is sensibly prioritising long-term sporting development over a hasty dash for fame and fortune abroad.

> "The potential is unbelievable. I've never seen a player with so much potential"
>
> Rosenborg's former Blackburn Rovers winger Morten Gamst Pedersen

"He's been in the public eye for a while, and as he's only 15 there's no question of him standing on his own feet just yet," says Odegaard senior. "He is as focused as ever, serious about training hard and becoming a better player.

"He's so engaged and football gives him so much pleasure. We have to protect him from the damage this attention may cause."

Yet, for all his extravagant talent – the pirouettes, the mazy runs, the step-overs, the back-heels, the splendid goals and the assists – he only has been playing in the Norwegian top flight for six months and still has a long road to tread.

While it's all well and good being the youngest player and marksman in Tippeligaen history, he now has to maintain the early momentum. And in the opinion of Stromsgodset's director of sport, the ex-Norway international striker Jostein Flo, the boy will be up to the challenge.

"Martin was good enough to play for the senior Norway quite some time ago," insists Flo. "He has been performing to an incredibly high standard and trains with maximum concentration and intensity.

"He's dedicated. He doesn't take himself to be some sort of pop star."

Nick Bidwell

Silvan WIDMER

CLUB	Udinese (Ita)
COUNTRY	Switzerland
POSITION	Defender
AGE	21 (25.03.93)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Aarau

Tipped to establish himself in the near-future as a first choice for Switzerland's national side – either playing at right-back or as a right-sided midfielder – the up-and-coming Widmer once told an interviewer that one of his strongest suits was his patience. And he has certainly needed that since leaving Aarau for Serie A side Udinese 15 months ago.

For the first-half of last season, the former under-21 international was the forgotten man of the Stadio Friuli, where he was studiously ignored by coach Francesco Guidolin.

But refusing to become disillusioned, he determinedly carried on learning his new Italian football lines and by January he was in the team for good, catching the eye with his dynamism, speed on the overlap, steely determination and a markedly improved tactical awareness.

Reward for his sterling efforts, was a place on the standby list for Switzerland's World Cup expedition. Although ultimately not required, he would soon be back on the front foot, included in the squad which faced England in September for a Euro 2016 qualifier – the first game in charge for new national coach Vladimir Petkovic.

An unused substitute as the visitors ran out 2-0 victors in Basle, his time will come. Better small steps towards an identified goal than a flash in the pan leap followed by oblivion.

The Widmer story is proof positive that successful careers can be cultivated off the beaten track.

> "Not only is he physically strong, he is mentally strong too"
>
> Rene Weiler, Widmer's coach at Aarau

Despite never featuring in the Swiss top flight – he spent all of his adult domestic career in his country's second tier with Aarau – he has managed to scale the heights, and during his side's promotion-winning season in 2012-13 was as purposeful and exciting as any player in the national elite.

"Silvan is one of those players, who, come what may, pushes on through," says his former coach at Aarau, Rene Weiler.

"Not only is he strong physically, he is mentally strong too."

Nick Bidwell

Gianluca GAUDINO

CLUB	Bayern Munich
COUNTRY	Germany
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	17 (11.11.96)

Like father, like son. Some 22 years after Maurizio Gaudino starred in midfield as Stuttgart clinched the Bundesliga title, son and heir Gianluca has every chance of following suit this season with Bayern Munich.

Promoted from the club's youth ranks to the senior squad in pre-season, he found himself selected for the first league game of the new campaign and played in a 2-1 win at home to Wolfsburg.

Walking onto the Allianz Arena pitch for his top-flight debut, he could have been mistaken for a ballboy. But there was nothing juvenile about his performance as he gave a display full of intelligence, composure and energy.

"He's not a sprinter, he's not strong in the air and not a brutal tackler, but he has something which is difficult to learn: the ability to play really good football," says Bayern director of sport Matthias Sammer.

"His development has been unbelievable and all the more so because of his name. That brings pressure right from the off."

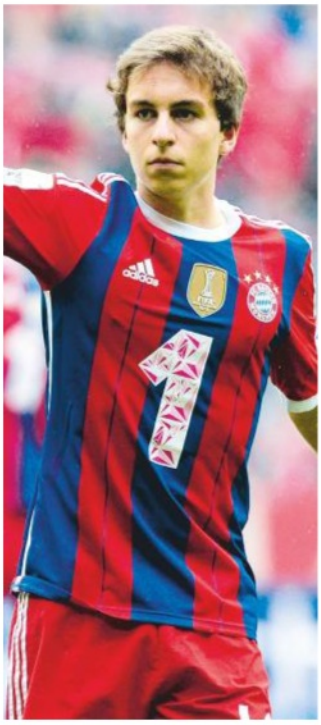
> "At Bayern he has the opportunity to learn from great champions such as Xabi Alonso" Maurizio Gaudino on his son, Gianluca

Although the youngster has obviously inherited his father's love and feel for the game, the pair are, in truth, two very different types of player.

Frequently making headlines for his off-the-field "escapades" – fast cars, nightclubs, strike action at Frankfurt and conviction for insurance fraud – the raffish Gaudino senior was a flamboyant playmaker and magnificent dribbler for Stuttgart, Eintracht Frankfurt and Germany. However, his son – who has been with Bayern since the age of eight – is much more team-orientated and disciplined.

Able to play in a holding role or linking the play further forward, he is just the sort of player that Bayern coach Pep Guardiola cannot get enough of.

Nick Bidwell



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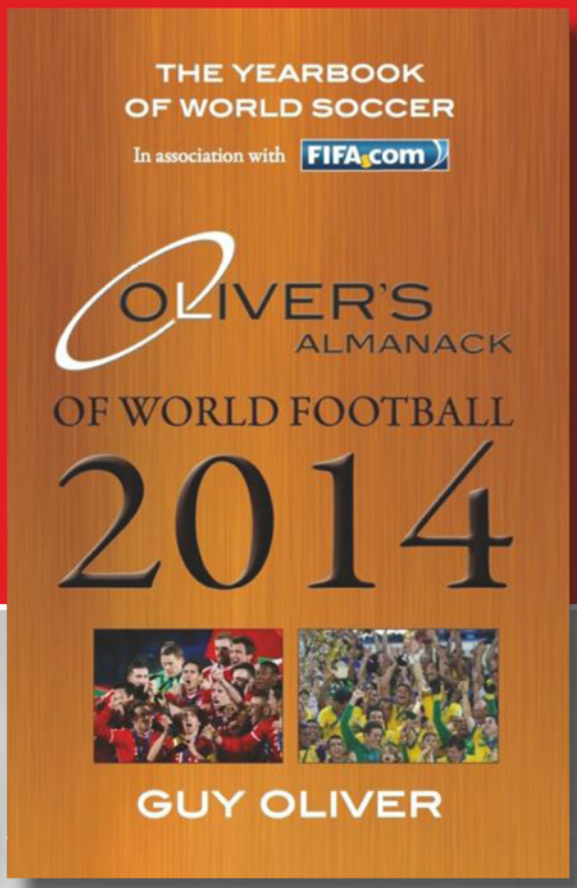

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STADIO OLIMPICO
Rome

Peterjon Cresswell visits the home of Lazio and Roma in the Eternal City

The only Italian stadium to be recently chosen as a venue for Euro 2020, Rome's Stadio Olimpico has hosted several major tournament finals.

Still bearing the architectural features of the pre-war Mussolini era in which it was created, Italy's national arena was in its pomp when it staged five matches played by the host nation at the 1990 World Cup finals. This was the height of the ultra movement, with Roberto Baggio and company strolling out to a thumping wall of noise and choreographed displays comprised of coloured squares held aloft by tens of thousands of arms.

These imaginative shows of pre-match pageantry continued into the 1990s and beyond – but the Olimpico, running track and all, has lost much of its mojo since the heady days of "Toto" Schillaci.

The two clubs who groundshare the arena, Lazio and Roma, last won the Serie A title in 2000 and 2001 respectively.

This August in New York, Rome city mayor Ignazio Marino announced his city's full collaboration on a new stadium project: Stadio della Roma. Jim Pallotta, American president of AS Roma, described the agreement as an "historic milestone", and each party outlined plans for the new arena.

From 2016-17 onwards, the complex in Tor di Valle, currently a racetrack for horses, will stage concerts, festivals and conferences, as well as Roma's home matches. Lazio, meanwhile, will stay at the Olimpico.

The Olimpico will still come into its own on derby day. Even for mid-table league games, *Il Derby della Capitale* is unlike any other cross-city clash in Italy.

Such is the drama that the rival supporters lend to the occasion, Italy's football dailies dedicate a special report to how well the fans played their part.

In 1928, the national stadium was in nearby Flaminio, where Mussolini opened ▸

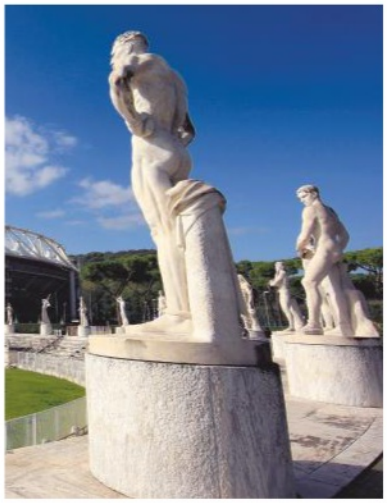
Roman icon...but the Olimpico is soon to be home to Lazio only

TICKETS

Several online agencies (www.listicket.it and www.seatwave.it) sell tickets for the Olimpico, whether for Roma, Lazio or an international game. A seat in the Curva Nord or Sud is generally about €35, rising to around €50-€60 in the distinti in the corners, €75-€80 in the Tribuna Tevere, and €100 and over in the Tribuna Monte Mario.

Neutrals are best placed in the Tribuna Tevere alongside the pitch – opposite the most expensive seats in the Tribuna Monte Mario. Away fans are generally allocated places in the distinti section opposite the home end.

- Tribuna Autorita
- Tribuna d'Onore
- Tribuna Stampa
- Palco
- Trib Monte Mario
- Trib M M Top
- Trib Tevere
- Distinti Nord
- Distinti Ospiti
- Distinti Sud
- Curva Nord
- Curva Sud



Statuesque...figures outside the stadium

Giallorossi...Roma fans make their presence felt

Creature comforts...Roma's dressing room

Rome by night...the stadium prepares for a Champions League match

the Stadio del Partido Nacional Fascista on the site of a more modest arena. A leading venue for Italy's international games, it staged the World Cup Final of 1934. A mile away, beneath Monte Mario on the other side of the Tiber, il Duce was also planning a grand sports complex, il Foro Mussolini.

Its construction interrupted by the war, Mussolini's vast project never came to pass. After 1945, a new national stadium was built where the Foro would have been. The grand Fascist entrance remains, with its walkway and hallmark obelisk. The Olimpico began life as an open bowl inaugurated in 1953 as the Stadio del Centomila, the arena surrounded by smaller sports facilities and the complex named the Foro Italico.

Roma and Lazio duly moved in, with Lazio's fans occupying the Curva Nord and Roma's the Curva Sud.

Host of the 1960 Olympic Games, the Olimpico had to be completely modernised for the 1990 World Cup. The areas behind the goals were expanded and brought closer to the pitch, the Tevere and Monte Mario stands were both enlarged and a new roof installed. Roma and Lazio moved over to the nearby Stadio Flaminio while these renovations took place.

By then derby day on the terraces was organised with near military precision. In the weeks leading up to the game, donation boxes appeared at either end, the money collected going towards materials to be gathered for the big day.

Not all displays of support are easy on the eye. Violence is commonplace, either between rival fans or supporters and the carabinieri gendarmes.

There is also often trouble for the visits of clubs from England. Fans of Liverpool were attacked at the 1984 European Cup Final here, the opponents being Olimpico tenants Roma.

Before the 2009 Champions League Final between Manchester United and Barcelona, security facilities were improved, with all seats replaced and video screens upgraded for high-definition LED ones. Capacity was set at its current 73,000. For the quarter-final stage of Euro 2020, UEFA set the minimum requirement at 60,000 – which few of the 19 bidding stadia could offer and Rome was duly selected. **WS**

ROMA'S NEW HOME

Now that Roma and the city of Rome have reached agreement, as announced at a press conference in New York in August, construction of the long-mooted new stadium at Tor di Valle can go ahead.

Since then, the city of Rome has officially declared the project to be of public interest to the capital, cutting much bureaucratic red tape as the project unfolds.

As club president, American Jim Pallotta, concluded: "The Stadio della Roma cannot open soon enough for us."

Scheduled to open for the 2016-17 season, the new arena in the south-west of the city is being modelled on the shape of the Colosseum.

It will have a capacity of 52,500 but up to 60,000 for the many concerts and large-scale events that are also due to be staged here.

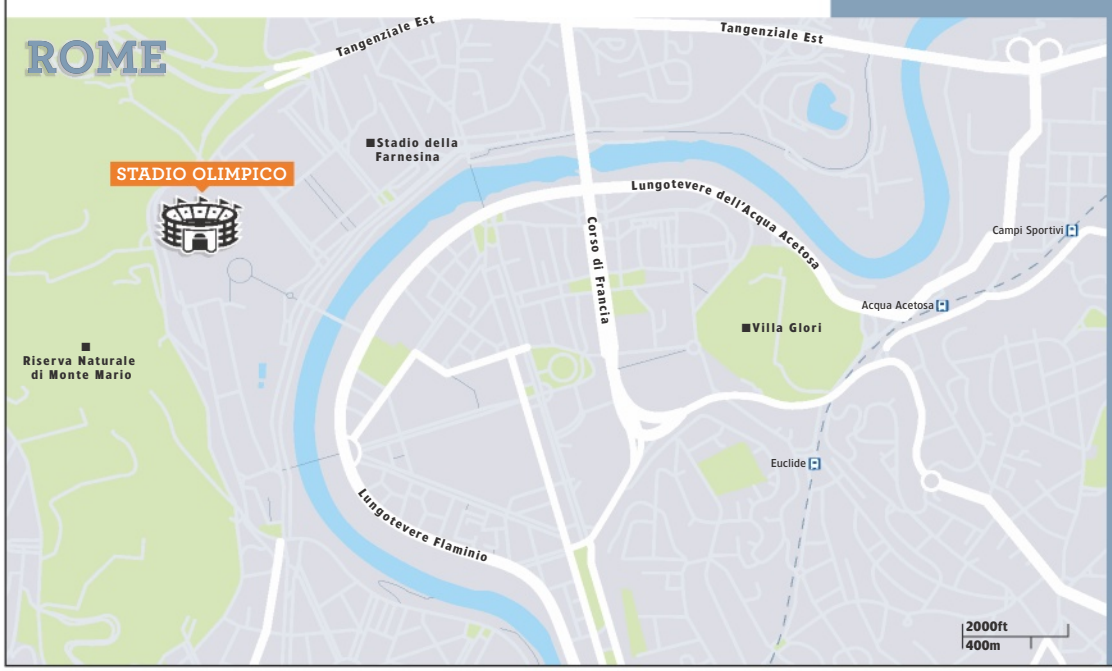
The aim is to make the stadium complex a 365-day-a-year leisure destination, with a Roma Hall of Fame, a Roma Village, shops, bars and restaurants. The centre will also have its own metro station, park and pedestrianised bridge across the Tiber.

Roma will also gain a new training centre, with state-of-the-art gym and spa facilities.

Face off...derby day at the Olimpico

EATING & DRINKING

Hugging the river Duca D'Aosta Bridge is a little string of bars and cafes. Big Stefano's has table football on offer. Across the bridge, on Piazza Mancini and so convenient for the No2 tram, Pizzeria Il Derby allows you to gawp at various framed shirts and autographed photos of Totti while your pizza is being prepared.



HOW TO GET THERE

The Stadio Olimpico is north of the city centre, on the same side of the Tiber as the Vatican. There are two main routes by public transport. From Ottaviano station on metro line A, head in the opposite direction from the Vatican and into via Barletta, for the infrequent No32 bus stop in the middle of the street. It heads north, past the Stadio Flaminio and after around 15mins passes the Olimpico at the stop LGT M. Ilo Diaz (De Bossis). An easier journey might be to take regular tram No2 from Ple Flaminio/P de Popolo (metro line A) to the terminus at Mancini. You then just have to cross the bridge with the Olimpico ahead of you.

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Irish joy...O'Shea equalises against Germany

Away double...Saucedo

BOLIVIA

Away win denied

An injury-time penalty from Chile's Arturo Vidal denied Bolivia their first away win in more than seven years and extended their winless run to 14 games.

Carlos Saucedo scored twice for the visitors, either side of Charles Aranguiz's first-half equaliser for Chile, in a 2-2 draw.

BRAZIL

Four for ill Neymar

Neymar scored all four goals in Brazil's 4-0 victory over Japan to become his country's fifth-top scorer of all time.

"He had the flu, so we gave him more freedom," said Brazil coach Dunga, who has now won four out of four in his second spell as national coach and is as yet to concede a goal.

"Usually he has to attack and come back into midfield and mark, but today he stayed up front. So the flu helped him to score four goals!"

The 22-year-old Barcelona striker now has 40 goals in 58 internationals – a figure bettered only by Zico (48), Romario (55), Ronaldo (62) and Pele (77). He also

Neymar...still only 22

Internationals

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Oct 10 - Amsterdam
Holland 3 (Huntelaar 62, Afellay 82, Van Persie pen 89)
Kazakhstan 1 (Abdulin 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,500. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Holland: Cillessen - Van der Wiel, De Vrij, Martins Indi (Fer 81), Blind, Sneijder, N De Jong (Huntelaar 56), Afellay, Robben, Van Persie, Lens.
Kazakhstan: Mokin - Miroshnichenko, Dmitrenko (Gurman 72), Vorotnikov, Abdulin, Suyumbayev, Bogdanov, Karpovich (Korobkin 79), Dzholchiyev, Khizhnichenko (Nurgaliyev 90), Shomko.
Sent off: Dzolchiyev 64.

Oct 10 - Riga
Latvia 0
Iceland 3 (G Sigurdsson 66, A Gunnarsson 77, R Gislason 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,354. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Latvia: Kolinko - Dubra, Gorkss, Bulvitis, Gabovs, Fertovs, Morozs, Rugins (Freimanis 63), Kovalovs (A Visnakovs 81), Sabala (E Visnakovs 81), Rudnevs. *Sent off: Rudnevs 55.*
Iceland: Halldorsson - E Bjarnason, R Sigurdsson, Arnason, A Skulason, B Bjarnason, A Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson (O Skulason 80), Hallfredsson (R Gislason 87), Sigthorsson, Bodvarsson (Finnbogason 77).

Oct 10 - Istanbul
Turkey 1 (Umut 8)
Czech Republic 2 (Sivok 15, Dockal 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 24,007. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Turkey: Tolga - Gokhan Gonul, Mehmet Topal, Semih, Caner, Ozan, Selcuk Inan (Ozyakup 79), Arda, Sahan (Muhammet 66), Umut, Gokhan Tore (Olcan 68).
Czech Republic: Cech - Kaderabek, Sivok, M Kadlec, Limbersky, Darida, Vacha, Dockal (Plasil 90+2), Rosicky, Krejci (Pilar 68), Lafata (Vydra 84).

Oct 13 - Reykjavik
Iceland 2 (G Sigurdsson pen 10, 42)
Holland 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 9,760. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Iceland: Halldorsson - E Bjarnason, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, A Skulason (B Saevarsson 46), B Bjarnason, A Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson, Hallfredsson, Bodvarsson (R Gislason 89), Sigthorsson.
Holland: Cillessen - Van der Wiel, De Vrij, Martins Indi, Blind, Afellay (Fer 78), N De Jong, Sneijder (Huntelaar 46), Robben, Van Persie, Lens (Promes 68).

Oct 13 - Astana
Kazakhstan 2 (Logvinenko 84, 90+1)
Czech Republic 4 (Dockal 13, Lafata 44, Krejci 56, Necid 88)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 13,752. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)
Kazakhstan: Sidelnikov - Miroshnichenko (Beisebekov 83), Vorotnikov, Abdulin, Logvinenko, Shomko, Tagybergen, Karpovich (Konysbaev 58), Islamkhan, Nusserbayev, Khizhnichenko (Nurgaliyev 70).
Czech Republic: Cech - Kaderabek, Sivok (Prochazka 81), M Kadlec, Limbersky, Dockal, Vacha, Darida, Krejci (Pilar 69), Kolar, Lafata (Necid 79).

Oct 13 - Riga
Latvia 1 (Sabala pen 54)
Turkey 1 (Bilal 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,442. **Ref:** Madden (Sco)
Latvia: Kolinko - Gabovs (Freimanis 38), Dubra, Gorkss, Kurakins, Ikaunieks, Zjuzins (Morozs 83), Fertovs, A Visnakovs, Sabala, E Visnakovs (Rakels 80). *Sent off: Freimanis 90+1.*
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Gokhan Gonul, Mehmet Topal, Semih, Caner, Ozan, Ozyakup (Bilal 40), Arda, Gokhan Tore (Hamit Altintop 70), Umut, Sahan (Adem 59).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iceland	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Czech Rep	3	3	0	0	8	4	9
Holland	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Latvia	3	0	2	1	1	4	2
Kazakhstan	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
Turkey	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

2014

Sep 9	Czech Republic v Holland	2-1
	Iceland v Turkey	3-0
	Kazakhstan v Latvia	0-0
Oct 10	Holland v Kazakhstan	3-1
	Latvia v Iceland	0-3
	Turkey v Czech Republic	1-2
Oct 13	Iceland v Holland	2-0
	Kazakhstan v Czech Republic	2-4
	Latvia v Turkey	1-1
Nov 16	Czech Republic v Iceland	
	Holland v Latvia	
	Turkey v Kazakhstan	

2015

Mar 28	Czech Republic v Latvia
	Holland v Turkey
	Kazakhstan v Iceland
Jun 12	Iceland v Czech Republic
	Kazakhstan v Turkey
	Latvia v Holland
Sep 3	Czech Republic v Kazakhstan
	Holland v Iceland
	Turkey v Latvia
Sep 6	Iceland v Kazakhstan
	Latvia v Czech Republic
	Turkey v Holland
Oct 10	Czech Republic v Turkey
	Iceland v Latvia
	Kazakhstan v Holland
Oct 13	Holland v Czech Republic
	Latvia v Kazakhstan
	Turkey v Iceland

Group B

Oct 10 - Brussels
Belgium 6 (De Bruyne pen 31, 34, Chadli 37, Origi 59, Mertens 65, 68)
Andorra 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 45,459. **Ref:** Boiko (Ukr)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany (Pocognoli 56), Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Nainggolan, Defour, De Bruyne, Chadli (Fellaini 61), Origi (Lukaku 66), Mertens.
Andorra: Pol - San Nicolas, E Garcia, Lima, Maneiro, Ayala, Vales, Rubio (Lorenzo 61), M Vieira, C Martinez (Moreno 78), Riera (M Garcia 72).

Oct 10 - Nicosia
Cyprus 1 (Makrides 67)
Israel 2 (Damari 38, Tal Ben Haim/F 45)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 19,164. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Cyprus: Giorgallides - Stylianou (Sotiriou 45+1), Merkis, Dossa Junior, Antoniades, Nikolaou, Laban, Charalambides (Kyriakou 45+1), Makrides, Makris (Alexandrou 70), Christofi.
Israel: Marciano - Meshumar, Tal Ben Haim/D, Tibi, Ben Harush, Vermouth (Biton 82), Natcho, Yeini, Zahavi, Tal Ben Haim/F (Refaelov 73), Damari (Shechter 70).

Oct 10 - Cardiff
Wales 0
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Att: 30,741. **Ref:** Bezborodov (Rus)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Chester, A Williams, B Davies, N Taylor, King, J Williams (G Williams 83), Ledley, Bale, Church (Robson-Kanu 65).
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Mujdza, Hadzic, Sunjic, Lulic, Susic, Besic, Medunjanin, Pjanic, Ibisevic (I Hajrovic 83), Dzeko.

Oct 13 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 1 (Lima pen 15)
Israel 4 (Damari 3, 41, 82, Hemed pen 90+6)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 2,032. **Ref:** Balaj (Rom)
Andorra: Pol - Rubio (Pujol 70), E Garcia, Lima (Ayala 40), Maneiro, Vales, M Vieira, C Martinez, Peppe (Toscana 83), Lorenzo, Riera.
Israel: Marciano - Meshumar, Tal Ben Haim/D, Tibi, Twatha, Biton, Vermouth (Shechter 65), Natcho, Zahavi (Refaelov 70), Tal Ben Haim/F, Damari (Hemed 84).

Oct 13 - Zenica
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Dzeko 28)
Belgium 1 (Nainggolan 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,070. **Ref:** Banti (Ita)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Mujdza, Hadzic, Sunjic, Lulic, Pjanic, Besic, Medunjanin, Susic (Visca 71), Ibisevic, Dzeko.
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany, Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Nainggolan, Defour (Fellaini 78), De Bruyne, E Hazard, Origi, Lukaku (Mertens 57).

Oct 13 - Cardiff
Wales 2 (Cotterill 13, Robson-Kanu 23)
Cyprus 1 (Laban 36)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 21,273. **Ref:** Grafe (Ger)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, A Williams, Chester, N Taylor, Robson-Kanu (J Taylor 84), King, G Williams (D Edwards 58), Bale, Church (Cotterill 6), Ledley. *Sent off: King 47.*
Cyprus: Kissas - Kyriakou, Merkis, Dossa Junior (Angeli 29; Papathanasiou 85), Antoniades, Nikolaou (Alexandrou 68), Laban, Efrem, Makrides, Sotiriou, Christofi.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Israel	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Belgium	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Cyprus	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Bosnia-Herz	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Andorra	3	0	0	3	2	12	0

2014

Sep 9	Andorra v Wales	1-2
	Bosnia-Herzegovina v Cyprus	1-2
Oct 10	Belgium v Andorra	6-0
	Cyprus v Israel	1-2
	Wales v Bosnia-Herzegovina	0-0
Oct 13	Andorra v Israel	1-4
	Bosnia-Herzegovina v Belgium	1-1
	Wales v Cyprus	2-1
Nov 16	Belgium v Wales	
	Cyprus v Andorra	
	Israel v Bosnia-Herzegovina	

2015

Mar 28	Andorra v Bosnia-Herzegovina
	Belgium v Cyprus
	Israel v Wales
Mar 31	Israel v Belgium
Jun 12	Andorra v Cyprus
	Bosnia-Herzegovina v Israel
	Wales v Belgium
Sep 3	Belgium v Bosnia-Herzegovina
	Cyprus v Wales
	Israel v Andorra
Sep 6	Bosnia-Herzegovina v Andorra
	Cyprus v Belgium
	Wales v Israel
Oct 10	Andorra v Belgium
	Bosnia-Herzegovina v Wales
	Israel v Cyprus
Oct 13	Belgium v Israel
	Cyprus v Bosnia-Herzegovina
	Wales v Andorra

Group C

Oct 9 - Borisov
Belarus 0
Ukraine 2 (Martynovich og 82, Sydorchuk 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,512. **Ref:** Van Boekel (Hol)
Belarus: Zhevnov - Polyakov, Verkhovtsov, Martynovich (Savitski 87), Filipenko, Balanovich, Kalachev, Krivets, Dragun, Stasevich (Kislyak 46), Gordeychuk (Kornilenko 79).
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi, Kucher, Khacheridi, Shevchuk, Stepanenko, Edmar (Budkivskyi 79), Rotan (Sydorchuk 64), Yarmolenko, Zozulya (Tymoshchuk 90+1), Konoplyanka.

Oct 9 - Skopje
Macedonia 3 (Trajkovski 20, Jahovic pen 66, Abdurahimi 90+2)
Luxembourg 2 (Bensi 39, Turpel 44)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 11,500. **Ref:** Mazzoleni (Ita)
Macedonia: Pacovski - Ristovski, Sikov, Mojsov, Cuculi (Alioski 46), Ademi, Demiri, Muarem (Jahovic 60), A Ibraimi (Abdurahimi 46), Trajkovski, Kostovski.
Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Philipps, Chanot, Gerson, Janisch, Martins, Mutsch, Turpel (Deville 70), Da Mota (Holter 63), Bensi (Laterza 75).

Oct 9 - Zilina
Slovakia 2 (Kucka 17, Stoch 87)
Spain 1 (Paco Alcacer 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,478. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Hubocan, Pecovsky, Gyomber, Kucka (Kiss 83), Mak (Stoch 61), Hamsik, Weiss (Duris 54).
Spain: Casillas - Juanfran (Cazorla 81), Pique, Albiol (Pedro 58), Jordi Alba, Busquets, Koke, Silva (Paco Alcacer 71), Fabregas, Iniesta, Diego Costa.

Oct 12 - Borisov
Belarus 1 (Kalachev 79)
Slovakia 3 (Hamsik 65, 84, Sestak 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,684. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Belarus: Zhevnov - Shitov (Stasevich 76), Verkhovtsov, Martynovich, Filipenko (Polyakov 55), Bordachev, Dragun, Kalachev, Krivets, Balanovich, Bressan (Gordeychuk 46).
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Gyomber, Pecovsky, Kucka (Kiss 86), Mak (Sestak 62), Hamsik, Weiss (Stoch 80), Nemec.

Oct 12 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Spain 4 (Silva 27, Paco Alcacer 42, Diego Costa 69, Bernat 88)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,125. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)

became the sixth Brazilian – and the youngest – to score four times in an international, after Ademir de Menezes, Evarsito de Macedo, Careca, Zico and Romario.

CHILE

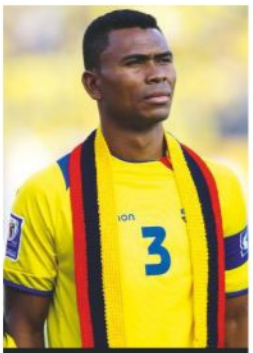
Height advantage

Coach Jorge Sampaoli says that Chile are looking at the possibility of holding qualifying games for the 2018 World Cup in the northern city of Calama – which is 2,275 metres above sea level – in an attempt to give them an advantage over some of their biggest South American rivals.

"It's an idea doing the rounds looking to the future," says Sampaoli, as Chile eye a third consecutive finals, following appearances in South Africa (2010) and Brazil (2014). "The home matches will be decisive.

"There are teams that have shown a drop in form at altitude: Brazil, Argentina and sometimes Uruguay."

Calama's Municipal Stadium is being refurbished ahead of next year's Copa America, which Chile is hosting. The qualifiers for the World Cup in Russia begin later in the year.



Final outing...Hurtado

ECUADOR

Hurtado bows out

At the age of 40, Ivan Hurtado wore the captain's armband and made his 168th and final international appearance as Ecuador beat El Salvador 5-1.

Joao Plata and Enner Valencia scored two each, with sub Cristian Penilla adding a fifth. Rafael Burgos scored a consolation.

Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Chanot, Gerson, Philipps, Janisch, Holter, Mutsch (Deville 86), Da Mota (Payal 75), C Martins (Turpel 61), Bensi.
Spain: De Gea - Carvajal, Bartra, Pique, Jordi Alba, Koke, Busquets, Iniesta (Bernat 70), Silva (Pedro 70), Paco Alcacer, Diego Costa (Rodrigo 82).

Oct 12 - Lviv
Ukraine 1 (Sydorchuk 45+2)
Macedonia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,978. **Ref:** Delferiere (Blg)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi, Kucher, Khacheridi, Shevchuk, Sydorchuk (Edmar 90+5), Stepanenko, Rotan (Tymoshchuk 90+2), Yarmolenko, Zozulya (Budkivskyi 77), Konoplyanka.
Macedonia: Pacovski - Ristovski, Sikov, Damchevski, Alioski, M Ivanovski (Kostovski 70), Ademi, Gligorov (Stojkov 86), Trajkovski, Jahovic (K Velkoski 62), Abdurahimi.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Spain	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Belarus	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Luxembourg	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

2014
Sep 8 Luxembourg v Belarus 1-1
Spain v Macedonia 5-1
Ukraine v Slovakia 0-1
Oct 9 Belarus v Ukraine 0-2
Macedonia v Luxembourg 3-2
Slovakia v Spain 2-1
Oct 12 Belarus v Slovakia 1-3
Luxembourg v Spain 0-4
Ukraine v Macedonia 1-0
Nov 15 Luxembourg v Ukraine
Macedonia v Slovakia
Spain v Belarus
2015
Mar 27 Macedonia v Belarus
Slovakia v Luxembourg
Spain v Ukraine
Jun 14 Belarus v Spain
Slovakia v Macedonia
Ukraine v Luxembourg
Sep 5 Luxembourg v Macedonia
Spain v Slovakia
Ukraine v Belarus
Sep 8 Belarus v Luxembourg
Macedonia v Spain
Slovakia v Ukraine
Oct 9 Macedonia v Ukraine
Slovakia v Belarus
Spain v Luxembourg
Oct 12 Belarus v Macedonia
Luxembourg v Slovakia
Ukraine v Spain

Group D

Oct 11 - Warsaw
Poland 2 (Milik 51, Mila 88)
Germany 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,934. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Poland: Szczesny - Piszczek, Szukala, Glik, Wawrzyniak (Jedrzejczyk 84), Grosicki (Sobota 71), Krychowiak, Jodlowiec, Rybus, Milik (Mila 77), R Lewandowski.
Germany: Neuer - Rudiger (Kruse 83), Boateng, Hummels, Durm, Kramer (Draxler 71), Kroos, Bellarabi, Gotze, Schurrle (Podolski 77), T Muller.

Oct 11 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 7 (Keane 6, 14, pen 18, McClean 46, 53, J Perez og 52, Hoolahan 56)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 35,123. **Ref:** Trattou (Cyp)
Rep Ireland: Forde - Meyler, O'Shea, Wilson, Ward (Brady 70), McGeady, Hendrick, Gibson, McClean, Hoolahan (Doyle 63), Keane (D Murphy 63).
Gibraltar: J Perez (Robba 60) - Wiseman, R Casciaro, R Chipolina (Santos 57), J Chipolina, Payas, B Perez, Bado (Guilling 46), Walker, Gosling, L Casciaro.

Oct 11 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (Khubutia og 28)
Georgia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,719. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)
Scotland: Marshall - Hutton, Hanley, R Martin, Robertson, Anya, Brown, Maloney, Morrison, Naismith (McArthur 80), S Fletcher (C Martin 90).
Georgia: Loria - Lobzhanidze, Khubutia, Kvirkvelia (Okriashvili 46), Kverkvelia, Daushvili, Grigalava, Kazaishvili (Chanturia 80), Kankava, Gelashvili, Papava (Dzaria 70).

Oct 14 - Gelsenkirchen
Germany 1 (Kroos 71)
Republic of Ireland 1 (O'Shea 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 51,204. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Germany: Neuer - Rudiger, Boateng, Hummels, Durm, Ginter (Podolski 46), Kroos, Bellarabi (Rudy 86), Gotze, Draxler (Kruse 70), T Muller.
Rep Ireland: Forde - Meyler, O'Shea, Wilson, Ward, McGeady, Quinn (Hoolahan 76), Whelan (Hendrick 53), McClean, Walters, Keane (Gibson 63).

Oct 14 - Faro-Loule, Portugal
Gibraltar 0
Georgia 3 (Gelashvili 9, Okriashvili 19, Kankava 69)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 281. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
Gibraltar: Robba - Garcia, Wiseman, Santos (R Chipolina 76), J Chipolina, B Perez, R Casciaro, Walker, Guilling (Gosling 76), L Casciaro, K Casciaro (Priestley 46).
Georgia: Loria - Lobzhanidze, Khubutia, Kverkvelia, Grigalava, Kankava, Dzaria, Okriashvili, Ananidze (Ebralidze 80), Chanturia (Dvalishvili 76), Gelashvili (Papunashvili 67).

Oct 14 - Warsaw
Poland 2 (Maczynski 11, Milik 76)
Scotland 2 (Maloney 18, Naismith 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 55,197. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Poland: Szczesny - Piszczek, Szukala, Glik, Jedrzejczyk, Grosicki (Zyro 89), Krychowiak, Maczynski, Sobota (Mila 63), Milik, R Lewandowski.
Scotland: Marshall - Hutton, R Martin, Greer, Whittaker, Maloney, Brown, Morrison, Anya, Naismith (C Martin 71), S Fletcher (D Fletcher 71).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	3	2	1	0	11	2	7
Rep Ireland	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
Germany	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Scotland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Georgia	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Gibraltar	3	0	0	3	0	17	0

2014
Sep 7 Georgia v Republic of Ireland 1-2
Germany v Scotland 2-1
Gibraltar v Poland 0-7
Oct 11 Poland v Germany 2-0
Republic of Ireland v Gibraltar 7-0
Scotland v Georgia 1-0
Oct 14 Germany v Republic of Ireland 1-1
Gibraltar v Georgia 0-3
Poland v Scotland 2-2
Nov 14 Georgia v Poland
Germany v Gibraltar
Scotland v Republic of Ireland
2015
Mar 29 Georgia v Germany
Republic of Ireland v Poland
Scotland v Gibraltar
Jun 13 Gibraltar v Germany
Poland v Georgia
Republic of Ireland v Scotland
Sep 4 Georgia v Scotland
Germany v Poland
Gibraltar v Republic of Ireland
Sep 7 Poland v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Georgia
Scotland v Germany
Oct 8 Georgia v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Germany
Scotland v Poland
Oct 11 Germany v Georgia
Gibraltar v Scotland
Poland v Republic of Ireland

Group E

Oct 9 - London
England 5 (Jagielka 25, Rooney pen 43, Welbeck 49, Townsend 72, Alessandro Della Valle og 78)
San Marino 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 55,990. **Ref:** Borski (Pol)
England: Hart - Chambers, Jagielka, Cahill, Gibbs, Henderson (Oxlade-Chamberlain 46), Wilshere, Milner, Sterling (Lallana 46), Rooney, Welbeck (Townsend 66).
San Marino: A Simoncini - Palazzi (Buscarini 74), F Vitaioli, Alessandro Della Valle, Brolli, Batistini, Hirsch, Tosi (L Gasperoni 63), Chiaruzzi, M Vitaioli, Selva (Rinaldi 87).

Oct 9 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Mikoliunas 76)
Estonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,780. **Ref:** Clos Gomez (Spa)
Lithuania: Arlauskis - Vaitkunas, Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Andriuskevicius, Vicius, Panka, Novikovas, Kalonas (Mikoliunas 63), Cernych, Matulevicius (Beniusis 90).
Estonia: Pareiko - Jaager, Barengrub, Klavan, Kallaste, Zenjov (Ojamaa 64), Mets, Antonov, Lindpere (Vassiljev 76), Anier, Vunk (Purje 80).
Sent off: Kallaste 86.

Oct 9 - Maribor
Slovenia 1 (Novakovic pen 79)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Ilic, Cesar, Struna, Mertelj, Birsa (Lazarevic 55), Kampl, Kirm (Pecnik 72), Ljubijankic (Kurtic 46), Novakovic.
Switzerland: Sommer - Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Senderos (Von Bergen 70), Rodriguez, Shaqiri, Behrami, Inler (Kasami 82), Xhaka, Seferovic, Drmic (Mehmedi 74).

Oct 12 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
England 1 (Rooney 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,195. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
Estonia: Pareiko - Jaager, Morozov, Klavan, Pikk, Mets, Antonov, Vassiljev (Lindpere 46), Vunk (Kruglov 83), Zenjov (Ojamaa 80), Anier. *Sent off: Klavan 48.*
England: Hart - Chambers, Cahill, Jagielka, Baines, Henderson (Sterling 64), Wilshere, Delph (Oxlade-Chamberlain 61), Lallana, Rooney, Welbeck (Lambert 80).

Oct 12 - Vilnius
Lithuania 0
Slovenia 2 (Novakovic 33, 37)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,250. **Ref:** Koukoulakis (Gre)
Lithuania: Arlauskis - Vaitkunas, Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Andriuskevicius, Novikovas, Zulpa, Panka (Vicius 32), Cernych, Chvedukas (Mikoliunas 75), Matulevicius.
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Ilic, Cesar, Struna, Stevanovic (Mertelj 46), Pecnik (Birsa 66), Kurtic, Kirm (Lazarevic 86), Kampl, Novakovic.

Oct 14 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Switzerland 4 (Seferovic 10, 23, Dzemaili 30, Shaqiri 79)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 2,289. **Ref:** Chapron (Fra)
San Marino: A Simoncini - Bonini, F Vitaioli (Cervellini 17), Alessandro Della Valle, Brolli, Battistini, Palazzi, A Gasperoni (L Gasperoni 69), Chiaruzzi, M Vitaioli (Hirsch 61), Stefanelli.
Switzerland: Sommer - Lichtsteiner (Widmer 59), Von Bergen, Djourou, Rodriguez, Xhaka, Kasami (Barnetta 71), Dzemaili, Shaqiri, Seferovic, Drmic (Mehmedi 46).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
Slovenia	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Lithuania	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Switzerland	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
Estonia	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
San Marino	3	0	0	3	0	11	0

2014
Sep 8 Estonia v Slovenia 1-0
San Marino v Lithuania 0-2
Switzerland v England 0-2
Oct 9 England v San Marino 5-0
Lithuania v Estonia 1-0
Slovenia v Switzerland 1-0
Oct 12 Estonia v England 0-1
Lithuania v Slovenia 0-2
Oct 14 San Marino v Switzerland 0-4
Nov 15 England v Slovenia
San Marino v Estonia
Switzerland v Lithuania
2015
Mar 27 England v Lithuania
Slovenia v San Marino
Switzerland v Estonia
Jun 14 Estonia v San Marino
Lithuania v Switzerland
Slovenia v England
Sep 5 Estonia v Lithuania
San Marino v England
Switzerland v Slovenia
Sep 8 England v Switzerland
Lithuania v San Marino
Slovenia v Estonia
Oct 9 England v Estonia
Slovenia v Lithuania
Switzerland v San Marino
Oct 12 Estonia v Switzerland
Lithuania v England
San Marino v Slovenia

Group F

Oct 11 - Helsinki
Finland 1 (Hurme 55)
Greece 1 (Karelis 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,548. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
Finland: Maenpaa - Arkivuo, Toivio, Moisander, Hurme, Ring, Sparv, P Hetemaj (Hamalainen 46), R Eremenko, Pukki (Pohjanpalo 70), Riski (Tainio 88).

World Service

Happy return...Gignac

FRANCE

Back in favour

Marseille striker Andre-Pierre Gignac scored his first international goal in five years as France beat Armenia 3-0 in a friendly.

Back in the side for the first time since the 2010 World Cup, Gignac scored from the penalty spot and also set up Loic Remy for the visitors' opener in Yerevan. Substitute Antoine Griezmann completed the scoring late on for an experimental side.

The newly revamped Stade Velodrome in Marseille will host its first international on November 18 when *Les Bleus* take on Sweden in a friendly. The stadium has increased its capacity to 67,000 and will stage six games at the Euro 2016 finals.

GIBRALTAR

Not much interest

A crowd of just 281 were present for Gibraltar's "home" Euro qualifier against Georgia at the 30,000-capacity Estadio Algarve in Portugal.

The attendance figure meant that more than 99 per cent of the stadium's seats were empty as the visitors won 3-0.

Misinformation...Bangoura

Greece: Karnezis - Vyntra, Papastathopoulos, Manolas, Torosidis, Samaris, Tachtsidis, Maniatis, Karelis (Samaras 81), Athanasiadis (Mitroglou 84), Mavrias (Moras 70).

Oct 11 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 2 (McAuley 6, K Lafferty 20)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,049. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)
Northern Ireland: Carroll - C McLaughlin, McAuley (McCullogh 56), A Hughes, Ferguson, McGinn (McCourt 67), Davis, Baird, Norwood, Ward, K Lafferty (Magennis 84).
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - Gregersen, Nattestad, P Justiniussen (Bartalstovu 90+1), V Davidsen, Naes, Benjaminsen, Hansson, Holst (B Olsen 82), Edmundsson, Klettskard (A Hansen 75).

Oct 11 - Bucharest
Romania 1 (Rusescu 45)
Hungary 1 (Dzsudzsak 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Chiriches, Goian (Gardos 5), D Grigore, Rat, Pintilii, Hoban, Maxim (Stancu 84), Chipciu, Sanmartean (Tanase 67), Rusescu.
Hungary: Kiraly - J Varga, Korcsmar, Juhasz, Kadar, Gera (Tozser 77), Elek, Lovrencsics (Simon 63), Dzsudzsak, Stieber (Nikolic 46), Szalai.

Oct 14 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 0
Hungary 1 (Szalai 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Kulbakov (Bls)
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - Naes, Gregersen, Nattestad, V Davidsen, Vatnhamar (Sorensen 81), B Olsen, Benjaminsen, Hansson, Holst (Bartalstovu 69), Edmundsson (A Hansen 76).
Hungary: Dibusz - J Varga, Korhut, Juhasz, Kadar, Simon, Nikolic (Fiola 46), Gera, Dzsudzsak, Tozser (Kalmar 73), Szalai (Priskin 84).

Oct 14 - Helsinki
Finland 0
Romania 2 (Stancu 54, 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,408. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Finland: Maenpaa - Hurme, Toivio, Moisander, Arkivuo, Ring, Sparv, P Hetemaj (Pohjanpalo 64), Hamalainen (Markkanen 74), Pukki (Riski 46), R Eremenko. *Sent off: Ring 56.*
Romania: Tatarusanu - Luchin, Chiriches, D Grigore, Rat, Hoban, Pintilii, Torje, Chipciu (Sanmartean 49), Tanase (Enache 84), Stancu (Rusescu 86).

Oct 14 - Piraeus
Greece 0
Northern Ireland 2 (Ward 9, K Lafferty 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,726. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis, Papastathopoulos, Manolas, Vyntra (Stafylidis 16), Tachtsidis, Maniatis, Karelis, Athanasiadis (Samaris 46), Samaras (Salpingidis 67), Mitroglou.
Northern Ireland: Carroll - C McLaughlin, McAuley, A Hughes, Ferguson (Reeves 78), C Evans, Davis, Baird, Norwood, Ward (McGivern 59), K Lafferty (Magennis 72).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N Ireland	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
Romania	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Finland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Hungary	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Greece	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Faroe Islands	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

2014

Sep 7	Faroe Islands v Finland	1-3
	Greece v Romania	0-1
	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-2
Oct 11	Finland v Greece	1-1
	Northern Ireland v Faroe Islands	2-0
	Romania v Hungary	1-1
Oct 14	Faroe Islands v Hungary	0-1
	Finland v Romania	0-2
	Greece v Northern Ireland	0-2
Nov 14	Greece v Faroe Islands	
	Hungary v Finland	
	Romania v Northern Ireland	

2015

Mar 29	Hungary v Greece	
	Northern Ireland v Finland	
	Romania v Faroe Islands	
Jun 13	Faroe Islands v Greece	
	Finland v Hungary	
	Northern Ireland v Romania	
Sep 4	Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland	
	Greece v Finland	
	Hungary v Romania	
Sep 7	Finland v Faroe Islands	
	Northern Ireland v Hungary	
	Romania v Greece	
Oct 8	Hungary v Faroe Islands	
	Northern Ireland v Greece	
	Romania v Finland	
Oct 11	Faroe Islands v Romania	
	Finland v Northern Ireland	
	Greece v Hungary	

Group G

Oct 9 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Montenegro 0
Att: 2,790. **Ref:** Evans (Wal)
Liechtenstein: Jehle (Bicer 62) - Quintans (Kuhne 80), Frick, Kaufmann, Burgmeier, Polverino, Yildiz, N Hasler, Wieser (A Christen 44), Salanovic, M Buchel.
Montenegro: Poleksic - Pavicevic, Simic, Tomasevic, Jovanovic, Beciraj (Vucinic 46), Zverotic, S Vukcevic (Nikolic 57), Jovovic, Jovetic (Grbic 74), Damjanovic.

Oct 9 - Chisinau
Moldova 1 (Dedov pen 27)
Austria 2 (Alaba pen 12, Janko 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** De Sousa (Por)
Moldova: Cebanu - I Jardan, Armas, Epureanu, Erhan (Patras 87), Golovatenco, Cojocari (A Antoniuc 65), Ionita, Gatcan, Picusciac (Sidorenco 46), Dedov.
Austria: Almer - Klein, Prodl, Dragovic, Fuchs, Baumgartlinger, Alaba, Sabitzer (Harnik 46), Junuzovic (Ilsanker 86), Arnautovic (Leitgeb 79), Janko. *Sent off: Janko 82.*

Oct 9 - Stockholm
Sweden 1 (Toivonen 49)
Russia 1 (Kokorin 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 49,023. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Sweden: Isaksson - P Bengtsson, Granqvist, Antonsson, M Olsson, Kallstrom (Wernbloom 86), S Larsson, Durmaz, Bahoui (Kacaniklic 79), Toivonen (Elmander 57), Zengin.
Russia: Akinfeev - Smolnikov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, D Kombarov (Granat 88), Glushakov, Fayzulin (Dzagoev 87), Samedov (Grigoryev 73), Shatov, Kokorin, Dzyuba.

Oct 12 - Vienna
Austria 1 (Okotie 24)
Montenegro 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,200. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Austria: Almer - Klein, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Fuchs, Baumgartlinger, Alaba, Harnik, Junuzovic (Ilsanker 77), Arnautovic (Hinterseer 62), Okotie (Lazaro 83).
Montenegro: Poleksic - Savic, Simic, Basa, Volkov, Zverotic (Jovovic 70), Nikolic, Beciraj, S Vukcevic (Jovetic 46), V Bozovic (Damjanovic 76), Vucinic.

Oct 12 - Moscow
Russia 1 (Dzyuba pen 73)
Moldova 1 (Epureanu 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,017. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Russia: Akinfeev - Parshivlyuk, Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, Granat, Ionov (Schennikov 75), Dzagoev, Glushakov, Cheryshev (Poloz 62), Kerzhakov (Ozdoev 46), Dzyuba.
Moldova: Cebanu - I Jardan, Armas, Epureanu, Erhan, Golovatenco, Cojocari (Racu 73), Ionita, Gatcan, Picusciac (Patras 46), Dedov (Sidorenco 82).

Oct 12 - Stockholm
Sweden 2 (Zengin 34, Durmaz 46)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,528. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
Sweden: Isaksson - P Bengtsson, Granqvist, Antonsson, M Olsson, Ekdal (Bahoui 74), Kallstrom, Durmaz, Zengin, Elmander (Wernbloom 79), Forsberg (Hrgota 66).
Liechtenstein: Bicer - Quintans, Frick, Kaufmann, Burgmeier, Yildiz (Brandle 27), N Hasler, Polverino, M Buchel (Wolfinger 83), A Christen (Kuhne 78), Salanovic.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Russia	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
Sweden	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Montenegro	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Moldova	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Liechtenstein	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

2014

Sep 8	Austria v Sweden	1-1
	Montenegro v Moldova	2-0
	Russia v Liechtenstein	4-0
Oct 9	Liechtenstein v Montenegro	0-0
	Moldova v Austria	1-2
	Sweden v Russia	1-1
Oct 12	Austria v Montenegro	1-0
	Russia v Moldova	1-1
	Sweden v Liechtenstein	2-0
Nov 15	Austria v Russia	
	Moldova v Liechtenstein	
	Montenegro v Sweden	

2015

Mar 27	Liechtenstein v Austria
	Moldova v Sweden
	Montenegro v Russia
Jun 14	Liechtenstein v Moldova
	Russia v Austria
	Sweden v Montenegro
Sep 5	Austria v Moldova
	Montenegro v Liechtenstein
	Russia v Sweden
Sep 8	Liechtenstein v Russia
	Moldova v Montenegro
	Sweden v Austria
Oct 9	Liechtenstein v Sweden
	Moldova v Russia
	Montenegro v Austria
Oct 12	Austria v Liechtenstein
	Russia v Montenegro
	Sweden v Moldova

Group H

Oct 10 - Sofia
Bulgaria 0
Croatia 1 (Bodurov og 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,703. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Bulgaria: V Stoyanov - Zanev (G Iliev 46), Bodurov, A Popov, Y Minev, Manolev, Dyakov, Gadzhev (Tonev 68), I Popov, G Milanov, Mitsanski (Galabinov 46).
Croatia: Subasic - Srna, Corluka, Vida, Perisic, Rakitic (Kovacic 80), Olic, Modric, Brozovic, Pranjic, Mandzukic.

Oct 10 - Palermo
Italy 2 (Chiellini 44, 82)
Azerbaijan 1 (Chiellini og 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Gocek (Tur)
Italy: Buffon - Darmian (Candreva 81), Ranocchia, Bonucci, Chiellini, De Sciglio, Florenzi (Giovinco 77), Pirlo (Aquilani 73), Marchisio, Zaza, Immobile.
Azerbaijan: K Agayev - Allahverdiyev, B Huseynov, R F Sadygov, Qirtimov (Ramaldanov 46), Abdullayev, Qarayev, Amirguliyev (Nadirov 86), Nazarov, Dadashov (C Huseynov 59), Aliyev.

Oct 10 - Valletta
Malta 0
Norway 3 (Daehli 22, King 26, 49)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,076. **Ref:** Gautier (Fra)
Malta: Hogg - Z Muscat, A Agius, Camilleri, P Fenech, Briffa (Grioli 72), R Muscat, Failla, R Fenech (Kristensen 72), M Mifsud, Schembri (T Vella 85).
Norway: Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Forren, Linnes, Skjelbred (Samuelsen 62), Johansen, Tettey (Singh 78), King (Nielsen 75), T Elyounoussi, Daehli.

Oct 13 - Osijek
Croatia 6 (Kramaric 11, Perisic 34, 45, Brozovic 45+1, Modric pen 57, R F Sadygov og 61)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 16,021. **Ref:** Studer (Swi)
Croatia: Subasic - Srna, Corluka, Vida, Pranjic, Brozovic, Rakitic, Modric (Halilovic 60), Kovacic (Perisic 24), Kramaric (Olic 76), Mandzukic.
Azerbaijan: K Agayev - Medvedev, R F Sadygov, B Huseynov, Allahverdiyev (Guliyev 66), Abdullayev, Qarayev (Ramazanov 30; C Huseynov 41), Ramaldanov, Nazarov, Amirguliyev, Aliyev.

Oct 13 - Valletta
Malta 0
Italy 1 (Pelle 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,942. **Ref:** Hategan (Rom)
Malta: Hogg - Z Muscat, A Agius, Camilleri, Mintoff (Baldacchino 72), Briffa, R Muscat, P Fenech, Failla (Bezzina 90+3), M Mifsud, Schembri (Cohen 85). *Sent off: M Mifsud 28.*
Italy: Buffon - Darmian, Bonucci, Chiellini, Candreva, Florenzi (Aquilani 59), Verratti, Marchisio, Pasqual, Immobile (Giovinco 65), Pelle (Ogbonna 75). *Sent off: Bonucci 73.*

Oct 13 - Oslo
Norway 2 (T Elyounoussi 13, Nielsen 72)
Bulgaria 1 (Bodurov 43)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,990. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
Norway: Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Forren, Linnes, Skjelbred, Tettey, Johansen, Daehli (Odegaard 63), T Elyounoussi (Samuelsen 83), King (Nielsen 58).
Bulgaria: Mihaylov - Manolev (Y Minev 69), A Popov, Bodurov, V Minev, Dyakov, Tonev, G Iliev (M Aleksandrov 76), G Milanov, I Popov, V Hristov (Galabinov 56).

GUINEA

Scaremongering

The widely reported story about Alhassan "Lass" Bangoura leaving the Guinea camp ahead of their African Nations Cup qualifier against Ghana because of his Spanish club's worries over the Ebola outbreak was far from accurate.

Bangoura of Rayo Vallecano, who was not even called up for the game, was said to have gone to Morocco – where the game, which finished 1-1, was staged – but turned around and went back to Madrid at the request of his club-mates, who were fearful that he might pick up the virus while playing out in Africa.

He did indeed travel to Morocco, but only to discuss his international future with Guinea coach Michel Dussuyer, who had left him on the bench for the previous qualifier and then replaced him in the squad when Ibrahim Traore returned from injury.

On the 22-year-old winger's return to Spain, the club did send a doctor to meet Bangoura at the airport and he underwent tests in a case of paranoia setting in.

Unbeaten...Jehle

LIECHTENSTEIN

Keepers' clean sheet

The European minnows kept their first clean sheet since 2012 thanks to the efforts of two keepers – although not at the same time.

Having kept Montenegro at bay for 62 minutes, first-choice Peter Jehle went off with an arm injury and sub Cengiz Bicer held on to take a point with a goalless draw.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Italy	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Norway	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Bulgaria	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Malta	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

2014
Sep 9 Azerbaijan v Bulgaria 1-2
Croatia v Malta 2-0
Norway v Italy 0-2
Oct 10 Bulgaria v Croatia 0-1
Italy v Azerbaijan 2-1
Malta v Norway 0-3
Oct 13 Croatia v Azerbaijan 6-0
Malta v Italy 0-1
Norway v Bulgaria 2-1
Nov 16 Azerbaijan v Norway
Bulgaria v Malta
Italy v Croatia
2015
Mar 28 Azerbaijan v Malta
Bulgaria v Italy
Croatia v Norway
Jun 12 Croatia v Italy
Malta v Bulgaria
Norway v Azerbaijan
Sep 3 Azerbaijan v Croatia
Bulgaria v Norway
Italy v Malta
Sep 6 Italy v Bulgaria
Malta v Azerbaijan
Norway v Croatia
Oct 10 Azerbaijan v Italy
Croatia v Bulgaria
Norway v Malta
Oct 13 Bulgaria v Azerbaijan
Italy v Norway
Malta v Croatia

Group I

Oct 11 - Elbasan
Albania 1 (Lenjani 38)
Denmark 1 (Vibe 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,330. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Cana, Mavraj, Agolli, Abrashi, Kukeli, Xhaka (Rama 82), Lila (Curri 87), Balaj (Cikalleshi 69), Lenjani.
Denmark: Schmeichel - P Ankersen (Bech 71), Kjaer, Bjelland, Boilesen, Hojbjerg (Kahlenberg 79), Kvist, Eriksen, Y Poulsen (Vibe 46), Bendtner, Krohn-Dehli.

Oct 11 - Yerevan
Armenia 1 (Arzumanyan 73)
Serbia 1 (Z Tosic 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Haroyan, Arzumanyan, T Voskanyan, Hovhannisyan, Mkrtchyan (Hovsepyan 52), Artur Yedigaryan, Hayrapetyan, Pizzelli (Karapetyan 84), Manucharyan (Dashyan 66), Sarkisov.
Serbia: Stojkovic - Ivanovic, S Mitrovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Gudelj (A Mitrovic 74), Matic, Z Tosic, Tadic, L Markovic (Kuzmanovic 26), Djordjevic (Lazovic 69).

Oct 14 - Copenhagen
Denmark 0
Portugal 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 90+5)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,562. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Jacobsen, Kjaer, Agger, Boilesen (S Poulsen 58), Hojbjerg, Kvist, Vibe (Bech 46), Eriksen (Kahlenberg 84), Krohn-Dehli, Bendtner.
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Cedric Soares, Ricardo Carvalho, Pepe, Eliseu, William Carvalho, Joao Moutinho, Tiago (Quaresma 84), Danny (Eder 77), Cristiano Ronaldo, Nani (Joao Mario 68).

Oct 14 - Belgrade
Serbia v Albania
Abandoned in 41st minute (with the score at 0-0) after violent clashes involving players and supporters
Ref: Atkinson (Eng)
Serbia: Stojkovic - Ivanovic, S Mitrovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Z Tosic, Gudelj, Djuricic, Matic, Tadic, Lazovic.
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Cana, Mavraj, Agolli, Lila, Xhaka, Kukeli, Abrashi, Lenjani, Balaj.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Albania	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Serbia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Armenia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

2014
Sep 7 Denmark v Armenia 2-1
Portugal v Albania 0-1
Oct 11 Albania v Denmark 1-1
Armenia v Serbia 1-1
Oct 14 Denmark v Portugal 0-1
Serbia v Albania Abandoned
Nov 14 Portugal v Armenia
Serbia v Denmark
2015
Mar 29 Albania v Armenia
Portugal v Serbia
Jun 13 Armenia v Portugal
Denmark v Serbia
Sep 4 Denmark v Albania
Serbia v Armenia
Sep 7 Albania v Portugal
Armenia v Denmark
Oct 8 Albania v Serbia
Portugal v Denmark
Oct 11 Armenia v Albania
Serbia v Portugal

● *Top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record[1] will qualify directly for the finals; the other 3rd-placed teams will be paired in 4 head-to-head, 2-leg ties, the winners of which will also qualify for the 24-team finals. Hosts France qualify automatically*
[1]Determined by results against the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A

Oct 11 - Pointe Noire
Congo 0
South Africa 2 (Ndulula 52, Rantie 54)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** El Ahrach (Mor)
South Africa: Meyiwa - Hlatshwayo, Mathoho, Coetzee, Matlaba, Jali, Furman, Masango (Letsholonyane 78), Serero, Rantie (Erasmus 73), Ndulula (Vilakazi 64).

Oct 11 - Khartoum
Sudan 1 (Bakri 42)
Nigeria 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ambrose (Lawal 75), Omeruo, Oboabona, Echiejile, Onazi, Mikel, Musa, Igiebor (Samuel 47), Salami (Emmanuel 70), Emenike.

Oct 15 - Abuja
Nigeria 3 (Musa 48, 90, Samuel 66)
Sudan 1 (Ibrahim 56)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Alioum (Cam)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Onazi, Omeruo, Oboabona, Oshaniwa, Mikel, Lawal (Aluko 63), Akpan, Musa (Osaguona 90+2), Samuel (Salami 85), Emenike.

Oct 15 - Polokwane
South Africa 0
Congo 0
Ref: Diatta (Sen)
South Africa: Meyiwa - Hlatshwayo, Mathoho, Coetzee, Khumalo, Jali, Furman, Masango, Serero (Manyisa 73), Rantie (Vilakazi 80), Ndulula (Erasmus 69).

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	4	2	2	0	5	0	8
Congo	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Nigeria	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Sudan	4	1	0	3	2	8	3

Group B

Oct 11 - Addis Abeba
Ethiopia 0
Mali 2 (Diaby 33, S Yatabare 62)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Kordi (Tun)

Oct 11 - Blantyre
Malawi 0
Algeria 2 (Halliche 10, Mesbah 90+2)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)
Algeria: M'Bolhi - Mandi, Halliche, Medjani, Ghoulam, Lacen, Bentaleb (Taider 82), Feghouli, Brahimi, Mahrez (Mesbah 89), Belfodil (Slimani 68).

Oct 15 - Blida
Algeria 3 (Brahimi 1, Mahrez 45, Slimani 54)
Malawi 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Mohamed Hussein (Sud)
Algeria: M'Bolhi - Mandi, Halliche, Medjani, Ghoulam, Lacen, Bentaleb, Feghouli, Brahimi (Mesbah 55), Mahrez (Taider 81), Slimani (Djabou 69).

Oct 15 - Bamako
Mali 2 (Sako 31, M Yatabare 68)
Ethiopia 3 (Omod 35, Getaneh 45+4, Abebaw 90+1)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Nampiandraza (Mad)
Sent off: Getaneh (Ethiopia) 57

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria (Q)	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
Mali	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
Malawi	4	1	0	3	3	9	3
Ethiopia	4	1	0	3	6	9	3

Group C

Oct 10 - Maseru
Lesotho 0
Angola 0
Ref: Fagla (Tog)

Oct 11 - Libreville
Gabon 2 (P-E Aubameyang 68, 74)
Burkina Faso 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lamptey (Gha)

Oct 15 - Luanda
Angola 4 (Bastos 2, Ary Papel 33, Koetle og 47, Love 57)
Lesotho 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Adelaid (Com)

Oct 15 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 1 (Pitroipa 30)
Gabon 1 (Evouna 76)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Burkina Faso	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Angola	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Lesotho	4	0	2	2	1	7	2

Group D

Oct 11 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 1 (Mongongu pen 68)
Ivory Coast 2 (Bony 24, Gradel 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Abid Charef (Alg)
Ivory Coast: Barry - Aurier (Dja Djedje 54), Kessie, Viera, Tiene, Tiote, Kouame, Gradel (Akpa Akpro 89), Y Toure, Gervinho, Bony (Tallo 75).

Oct 11 - Yaounde, Cameroon[1]
Sierra Leone 0
Cameroon 0
Ref: Batte (Uga)
Cameroon: Ondoa - Guihoata, Mbia, N'Koulou, Bedimo, Kom (Mandjeck 86), Enoh, N'Jie, Choupo-Moting, Moukandjo (Salli 75), Aboubakar (Kweuke 64).
[1]The game, moved to Cameroon because of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, is treated as a Sierra Leone home fixture

Oct 15 - Yaounde
Cameroon 2 (Kweuke 2, Mbia 7)
Sierra Leone 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)
Cameroon: Ondoa - Oyongo, N'Koulou, Mbia, Bedimo, Moukandjo, Enoh (Loe 66), Mandjeck, Choupo-Moting, N'Jie (Salli 68), Kweuke.

Oct 15 - Abidjan
Ivory Coast 3 (Y Toure 24, Kalou 68, 72)
DR Congo 4 (Kebano 21, Kabananga 33, Bokila 36, 88)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)
Ivory Coast: Barry - Aurier, Kessie, Viera, Tiene, Tiote (Akpa Akpro 89), Kouame (Kalou 46), Gradel (Dja Djedje 61), Y Toure, Gervinho, Bony.
Sent off: Kessie 47.

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
DR Congo	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Ivory Coast	4	2	0	2	8	10	6
Sierra Leone	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

Group E

Oct 11 - Casablanca, Morocco
Guinea 1 (Traore 81)
Ghana 1 (Gyan 27)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ragab Omar (Lby)
Ghana: Adams - Afful, Awal, Jonathan Mensah, Rahman, Agyemang-Badu (Rabiu 69), K Asamoah, A Ayew, Atsu (Wakaso 72), J Ayew (Waris 78), Gyan.

Oct 11 - Kampala
Uganda 0
Togo 1 (Kokou 30)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Omweno (Ken)

Oct 15 - Tamale
Ghana 3 (Gyan 14, A Ayew pen 57, Agyemang-Badu 90+6)
Guinea 1 (M Yattara 34)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

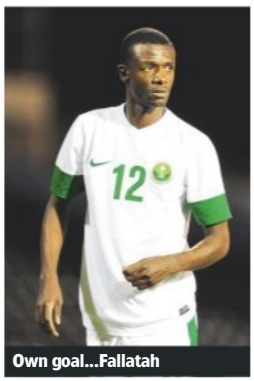
World Service

MYANMAR

History boys

Three days after the country's juniors made history by claiming a place at next year's Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand with a first-ever qualification for the finals of a FIFA tournament, the senior team booked their spot in the AFF Cup finals by topping the qualifying tournament in Laos.

Myanmar will now face defending champions Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia in Group B of the south-east Asian championship, which takes place from November 22 until December 20 and is co-hosted by Singapore and Vietnam. Laos also qualified and will be in Group A with Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.



Own goal...Fallatah

RUSSIA

World Cup draw

The qualifying draw for the 2018 World Cup will take place on July 25 next year, at the Konstantinovsky Palace in Saint Petersburg.

SAUDI ARABIA

No win is own fault

An own goal by Hassan Fallatah denied Saudi Arabia a first win in seven months as they drew 1-1 with Lebanon in a friendly.

Omar Hawsawi gave the Saudis the lead before his effort was cancelled out just a minute later.

SPAIN

Under-21 holders out

Albert Celades' under-21 side will not be in the Czech Republic next summer to

Ghana: Adams - Afful, Awal, Jonathan Mensah, Rahman, Asante (Wakaso 75), Rabiu, K Asamoah, A Ayew (Agyemang-Badu 84), J Ayew (Gyimah 69), Gyan.

Oct 15 - Lome
Togo 1 (Akakpo 70)
Uganda 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Wiish (Som)

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	4	2	2	0	8	5	8
Togo	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Uganda	4	1	1	2	3	3	4
Guinea	4	1	1	2	4	7	4

Group F

Oct 11 - Maputo
Mozambique 2 (Kito 44, Reginaldo 64)
Cape Verde Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Farouk Mahmoud (Egy)

Oct 11 - Niamey
Niger 0
Zambia 0
Ref: Munyemana (Rwa)

Oct 15 - Praia
Cape Verde Islands 1 (Heldon 79)
Mozambique 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Keita (Mli)

Oct 15 - Ndola
Zambia 3 (Kalaba 58, Mayuka 73, Mweene pen 87)
Niger 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Zio (BuF)

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape Verde (Q)	4	3	0	1	6	4	9
Zambia	4	1	2	1	4	2	5
Mozambique	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Niger	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

Group G

Oct 10 - Gaborone
Botswana 0
Egypt 2 (El Neny 56, M Salah 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Weyesa (Eth)
Egypt: El Shenawy - Fathy, Samir, Naguib, Abdel Shafy, El Neny (Abdel Khalek 90+2), I Salah, Soliman (Hefny 69), Al Sulaya, M Salah, Gamal (Kamar 80).

Oct 11 - Dakar
Senegal 0
Tunisia 0
Ref: Otogo-Castane (Gab)
Senegal: Coundoul - Toure, Mbodji (S Sane 17), Djilobodji, M'Bengue, Badji, Gueye, Diame, D N'Doye, S Mane, Sow (P D Cisse 46).
Tunisia: A Mathlouthi - H Mathlouthi, S Ben Youssef, Yacoubi, Abdennour, Maaloul, Ragued, Nater, Khazri (Khelifa 89), Chikhaoui, F Ben Youssef (Jemaa 68).

Oct 15 - Cairo
Egypt 2 (Gamal 52, M Salah 72)
Botswana 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sinko (IvC)
Egypt: El Shenawy - Fathy, Samir, Naguib, Abdel Shafy, El Neny, I Salah, Soliman (Hamoudi 75), Al Sulaya (Hefny 52), M Salah, Gamal (Kamar 89).

Oct 15 - Monastir
Tunisia 1 (Sassi 90+4)
Senegal 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Seechurn (Mrs)
Tunisia: A Mathlouthi - H Mathlouthi, S Ben Youssef, Yacoubi, Abdennour, Maaloul, Ragued, Nater, Khazri (Sassi 60), Msakni (Khelifa 85), F Ben Youssef (Younes 75).
Senegal: Coundoul - Toure, Mbodji, Djilobodji, M'Bengue, Badji, Gueye, Diame (A N'Diaye 87), Diop (D N'Doye 77), S Mane, P D Cisse (D Ba 82).

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	4	3	1	0	4	1	10
Senegal	4	2	1	1	4	1	7
Egypt	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Botswana	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

Remaining matchdays: *Nov 14/15, Nov 19*
● *The top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record will qualify for the 16-team finals; hosts Morocco qualify automatically*

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS

2nd round

Group 7

Played in Trinidad & Tobago
Oct 8: Antigua & Barbuda 2 St Lucia 1; Trinidad & Tobago 6 Dominican Republic 1.
Oct 10: Dominican Republic 0 Antigua & Barbuda 0; Trinidad & Tobago 2 St Lucia 0.
Oct 12: St Lucia 2 Dominican Republic 3; Trinidad & Tobago 1 Antigua & Barbuda 0.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP 7 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trin & Tob (Q)	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Antigua & B (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Dominican Rep	3	1	1	1	4	8	4
St Lucia	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

Played in Haiti
Oct 8: St Kitts & Nevis 2 Barbados 3; Haiti 2 French Guiana 2.
Oct 10: French Guiana 1 St Kitts & Nevis 2; Haiti 4 Barbados 2.
Oct 12: Barbados 0 French Guiana 2; Haiti 0 St Kitts & Nevis 0.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP 8 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haiti (Q)	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Fr Guiana (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
St Kitts & N	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Barbados	3	1	0	2	5	8	3

Group 9

Played in Guadeloupe
Oct 8: Curacao 1 Martinique 1; Guadeloupe 3 St Vincent & The Grenadines 1.
Oct 10: St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 Curacao 0; Guadeloupe 1 Martinique 2.
Oct 12: Martinique 4 St Vincent & The Grenadines 3; Guadeloupe 0 Curacao 1.

CARIBBEAN CUP QUALIFIERS – GROUP 9 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Martinique (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	5	7
Curacao (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Guadeloupe	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
St Vincent & G	3	1	0	2	5	7	3

● *The top 2 in each group have qualified for the 8-team finals, to which hosts Jamaica and holders Cuba qualified automatically. The finals will be played from November 10 to 17 this year*
● *The 3 2nd-round groups were numbered 7, 8 and 9 because groups in previous stages had been numbered 1-6*

AFF CUP

(championship for countries in the ASEAN Football Federation, emcompassing south-east Asia)

Qualifying group

Played in Vientiane, Laos
Oct 12: East Timor 4 Brunei 2; Laos 3 Cambodia 2.
Oct 14: Brunei 2 Laos 4; Myanmar 0 East Timor 0.
Oct 16: East Timor 2 Cambodia 3; Brunei 1 Myanmar 3.
Oct 18: Cambodia 0 Myanmar 1; Laos 2 East Timor 0.
Oct 20: Myanmar 2 Laos 1; Cambodia 1 Brunei 0.

AFF CUP QUALIFYING GROUP – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Myanmar (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Laos (Q)	4	3	0	1	10	6	9
Cambodia	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
East Timor	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Brunei	4	0	0	4	5	12	0

● *Myanmar and Laos qualify for the 8-team finals, to be played in Singapore and Vietnam from November 22 to December 20 this year. Apart from the hosts, the other participating countries will be Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand*

FRIENDLIES

Thursday, September 25

Sep 25 - Sidoarjo
Indonesia 1 (Maitimo pen 45)
Cambodia 0
HT: 1-0

Monday, October 6

Oct 6 - Siliguri
India 2 (Chhetri 32, F Fernandes 36)
Palestine 3 (Nu'man 8, Maher 48, Yousef 72)
HT: 2-1

Oct 6 - Doha
Qatar 3 (Soria 18, Al Haidous 43, Abdullah 67)
Uzbekistan 0
HT: 2-0

Wednesday, October 8

Oct 8 - Taipei
Taiwan 0
Cambodia 2 (Vathanaka 90+1, 90+4)
HT: 0-0

Thursday, October 9

Oct 9 - Tuxtla Gutierrez
Mexico 2 (J Hernandez 22, Alanis 37)
Honduras 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Quesada (CR)
Mexico: Ochoa - Aguilar, Perez, Dominguez, Alanis, Layun (Pizarro 79), Rios (Guemez 67), H Herrera (Aquino 60), Fabian (Gonzalez 77), Peralta (Javier Orozco 67), J Hernandez (Torres 78).
Honduras: Escober - Izaguirre (Barahona 87), M Figueroa, Bernardez, Crisanto, Najar (M Chavez 72), Garrido, Claros, O Garcia (Portillo 81), Quioto (M Martinez 55), Rojas (Elis 68).

Oct 9 - Marrakech
Morocco 4 (Hamdallah 34, 41, 67, El Kaddouri 57)
Central African Republic 0
HT: 2-0
Morocco: Zniti - Dirar, Benatia (Kantari 70), Da Costa, Karrouchi (Lazaar 76), El Adoua, Belhanda (Hermach 79), Amrabat, Boussoufa (Barrada 70), El Kaddouri (Hadraf 70), Hamdallah (Iajour 83).

Oct 9 - Doha
Qatar 5 (Abdullah 30, 59, Maqsoud 60, Shehab 75, Abkar 83)
Lebanon 0
HT: 1-0

Friday, October 10

Oct 10 - Dubai, UAE
Bahrain 0
Uzbekistan 0

Oct 10 - Valparaiso
Chile 3 (Vargas 28, 54, Medel 34)
Peru 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Quintana (Par)
Chile: Bravo - Jara, Medel (Silva 45+1), Rojas (Fuenzalida 67), Isla, Aranguiz, Diaz (Carmona 83), Beausejour (Delgado 73), Vidal, Sanchez, Vargas (Henriquez 79).
Peru: R Fernandez - Advincula, Zambrano (Atoche 74), Callens, Yotun, Ascues, Cruzado, Ballon, Carrillo (Velarde 86), Vargas (Ramos 58), Guerrero.
Sent off: Cruzado 40.

Oct 10 - Wuhan
China 3 (Sinthaweechai og 65, Sun Ke 84, Yang Xu 88)
Thailand 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 10 - Harrison, USA
El Salvador 0
Colombia 3 (Falcao 7, Bacca 48, 50)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
El Salvador: H Hernandez - Molina, Mendoza (Garcia 73), Menjivar, Alvarez (E Burgos 81), Monterrosa (Santamaria 65), Larin (J Alas 68), Renderos, A Flores (I Castro 82), Punyed, R Burgos (M Orellana 84).
Colombia: Vargas - S Arias, Alvarez, Franco (Murillo 60), Armero, Carbonero (Chara 71), Mejia, Rodriguez (Aguilar 81), Cardona (J Quintero 60), Bacca (Ramos 66), Falcao (J Martinez 60).

Oct 10 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 2 (Xu Deshuai 7, Ju Yingzhi 52)
Singapore 1 (Shahril pen 90+4)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,203

Oct 10 - Niigata
Japan 1 (Nosworthy og 16)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,628. **Ref:** Ma (Chn)
Japan: Nishikawa - G Sakai, Shiotani, Morishige, Nagatomo (Ota 88), Shibasaki, Hosogai, Kagawa (Taguchi 89), Honda, Okazaki (Kobayashi 58), Muto (Kakitani 73).
Jamaica: Thompson - Morgan, Nosworthy, Powell, Lawrence, Finlayson (Gray 64), J Taylor, Grant (Benbow 74), Watson, Loza (Seaton 46), Richards (Mattocks 46).

Oct 10 - Amman
Jordan 0
Kuwait 1 (Nasser 86)
HT: 0-0

Oct 10 - Sohar
Oman 3 (Saleh 26, Al Seyabi 54, Al Hosani 59)
Costa Rica 4 (Saborio 4, J Ruiz 45+2, Bustos 47, Ramirez 50)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Abbas Al Abbasi (Bhn)
Costa Rica: Alvarado - Gamboa (Brown 71), Miller (Acosta 81), Duarte, Diaz, Borges, Tejeda, Bustos (Venegas 64), B Ruiz, J Ruiz (George 71), Saborio (Ramirez 46).

defend their European title after they lost 2-1 on aggregate to Serbia in the play-offs for the finals.

Following a goalless draw in Serbia, Spain were beaten on home soil in Cadiz as the visitors won with strikes from Saul Niguez – who put through his own goal – and Filip Kostic. Sergi Roberto replied for Spain, who had won the last two editions of the tournament.

Czech Republic, as hosts, will be joined by Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and Sweden for the finals of the 2015 European Under-21 Championship.

The tournament will be staged from June 17 to 30, with matches to be held in the cities of Prague, Olomouc and Uherske Hradiste.

Conquerors...Serbia (in white)

Back...Suarez

URUGUAY

Suarez double

Luis Suarez scored his first international goals since his ban for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup with a brace in Uruguay's 3-0 win against Oman.

Oscar Tabarez signed a contract to remain as coach of the national team until the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Oct 10 - Jeddah
Saudi Arabia 1 (Hazazi 89)
Uruguay 1 (H Fallatah og 46)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Abdulhusin (Bhn)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Velazquez, A Pereira, Arevalo (Mayada 85), Corujo (Stuani 75), Lodeiro (Arismendi 61), C Rodriguez (Rolan 46), J Rodriguez (De Arrascaeta 61), Suarez (Hernandez 69).

Oct 10 - Cheonan
South Korea 2 (Kim Min-woo 27, Nam Tae-hee 32)
Paraguay 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,156. **Ref:** Kovalenko (Uzb)
South Korea: Kim Jin-hyeon - Lee Yong, Kwak Tae-hwi, Kim Kee-hee (Kim Young-gwon 90), Hong Chul, Han Kook-young, Ki Sung-yeung (Park Jong-woo 80), Nam Tae-hee (Lee Myung-joo 77), Kim Min-woo (Han Kyo-won 70), Lee Chung-yong (Son Heung-min 46), Cho Young-cheol (Lee Dong-gook 60).
Paraguay: A Silva - L Caceres (Julian Benitez 46), Aguilar, Gomez, Piris, N Ortigoza (Rojas 46), C Ortiz (Torales 68), M Riveros, Estigarribia (Mendoza 35), Santa Cruz (Ovelar 78), D Gonzalez (Dominguez 69).

Oct 10 - Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates 0
Australia 0
Australia: Ryan - Wilkinson, Sainsbury, Brillante, Davidson (Behich 81), Jedinak, Luongo (Troisi 61), Kruse (Smith 61), Milligan (Holland 75), Leckie, Ibini-Isei (Cahill 77).

Oct 10 - East Hartford
United States 1 (Diskerud 5)
Ecuador 1 (E Valencia 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,265. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)
United States: Guzan - Chandler, Orozco (Gonzalez 62), Brooks (Ream 62), Garza, Yedlin, Bedoya (Morales 62), Diskerud, Gyau (Wood 22), Donovan (Corona 41), Altidore (Wondolowski 76).
Ecuador: Banguera - Paredes (Pineida 90+3), Canga, Erazo (Leon 86), W Ayovi, Noboa, Castillo (Gruezo 86), Ibarra (Gonzalez 44), Cazares (Sornoza 85), Penilla (Plata 46), E Valencia.

Oct 10 - Manama, Bahrain
Yemen 1
Iraq 1
HT: 0-0

Saturday, October 11

Oct 11 - Beijing, China
Brazil 2 (Diego Tardelli 28, 64)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,313. **Ref:** Fan (Chn)
Brazil: Jefferson - Danilo, Miranda, David Luiz (Gil 88), Filipe Luis, Luiz Gustavo, Elias, Willian, Oscar, Neymar (Robinho 90+3), Diego Tardelli (Kaka 82).
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, F Fernandez, Demichelis, Rojo, Mascherano, Pereyra (Perez 76), Lamela (Pastore 60), Di Maria, Messi, Aguero (Higuain 60).

Oct 11 - Paris
France 2 (Benzema 3, Pogba 69)
Portugal 1 (Quaresma pen 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
France: Mandanda - Sagna, Varane, Mangala, Evra, Pogba, Cabaye (Sissoko 71), Matuidi, Valbuena (Payet 58), Benzema (Gignac 89), Griezmann (Schneiderlin 84).
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Cedric Soares, Bruno Alves (Ricardo Carvalho 46), Pepe, Eliseu, Andre Gomes (William Carvalho 46), Tiago (Eder 68), Joao Moutinho, Nani (Quaresma 68), Cristiano Ronaldo (Joao Mario 76), Danny (Vieirinha 85).

Sunday, October 12

Oct 12 - Queretaro
Mexico 1 (Torres 89)
Panama 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Mexico: Talavera - M Herrera, Ayala, Venegas, Pizarro (Aguilar 61), Layun (Rios 90), Guemez, H Herrera (Gonzalez 46), Fabian (Dominguez 83), J Hernandez (Torres 83), Javier Orozco (Peralta 59).
Panama: McFarlane - R Torres, Cummings, L Henriquez, Godoy, Parris, G Gomez, Quintero (Stephens 61), Buitrago (Nurse 60), Cooper, B Perez (Camargo 74).

Oct 12 - Lahore
Pakistan 0
Palestine 2 (Ismail 90, Jaber 90+2)
HT: 0-0

Oct 12 - Manila
Philippines 5 (Hartmann 2, 10, 19, 45+2, P Younghusband 41)
Papua New Guinea 0
HT: 5-0

Oct 12 - Dar es Salaam
Tanzania 4 (Haroub 16, Kiemba 40, Ulimwengu 49, Luzio 72)
Benin 1 (Suanon 90+2)
HT: 2-0

Monday, October 13

Oct 13 - Amman
Jordan 1 (Hayel 10)
Kuwait 1 (A Al Kandari 90+3)
HT: 1-0

Oct 13 - Marrakech
Morocco 3 (Karnass 77, Boussoufa pen 85, Iajour 88)
Kenya 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)
Morocco: Bounou - Dirar (El Khaliqi 85), Lazaar, Da Costa, Benatia, El Adoua (Hermach 88), Belhanda (Iajour 72), El Kaddouri (Karnass 66), Barrada (Amrabat 63), Boussoufa (Achchakir 88), Hamdallah.

Oct 13 - Al Buraimi
Oman 0
Uruguay 3 (Suarez 57, 66, J Rodriguez 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al Awaji (Sau)
Uruguay: M Silva - M Pereira (Corujo 69), Gimenez, Godin, G Silva, Arevalo (Arismendi 64), Lodeiro, De Arrascaeta (J Rodriguez 46), C Rodriguez (Ramirez 46), Rolan (Mayada 77), Suarez (Stuani 77).

Tuesday, October 14

Oct 14 - Yerevan
Armenia 0
France 3 (Remy 7, Gignac pen 55, Griezmann 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kovacs (Rom)
Armenia: Berezovsky (Kasparov 61) - Haroyan, Arzumanyan, T Voskanyan, Hovhannisyan, Mkrtchyan (Aslanyan 90+1), Artur Yedigaryan (Dashyan 58), Hayrapetyan, Sarkisov (Hambardzumyan 65), Pizzelli (Karapetyan 83), Simonyan (Hovsepyan 69).
France: Mandanda - Jallet, Varane, Mathieu, Digne, Schneiderlin, Matuidi (Pogba 46), Sissoko (Griezmann 60), Payet (Cabella 60), Remy (Valbuena 73), Gignac (Benzema 87).

Oct 14 - Riffa
Bahrain 0
Iraq 0
Ref: Al Oraini (Sau)

Oct 14 - Harrison, USA
Canada 0
Colombia 1 (Rodriguez 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,727. **Ref:** Guzman (USA)
Canada: Borjan - Hainault, De Jong (Ouimette 77), Henry, Straith (Hamilton 90+1), Ledgerwood (Haber 58), De Guzman, Pacheco (Gagnon-Lapare 68), Nakajima-Farran (Aparicio 90+1), Edgar, Ricketts (Larin 82).
Colombia: Vargas - S Arias, C Zapata, Murillo (Sanchez 86), Zuniga (Armero 66), Cuadrado, Carbonero (Guarin 46), Mejia, Rodriguez (Ramos 81), Gutierrez (J Quintero 71), Falcao (J Martinez 66).

Oct 14 - Coquimbo
Chile 2 (Aranguiz 41, Vidal pen 90)
Bolivia 2 (Saucedo 15, 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Diaz (Arg)
Chile: Herrera - Medel, Jara, Roco (Mena 56), Isla, Aranguiz (Millar 64), Diaz (Hernandez 86), Beausejour (Delgado 56), Vidal, Vargas (Henriquez 72), Sanchez.
Bolivia: Quinonez - Hurtado (Eguino 90+5), Raldes, Zenteno, Morales, Azogue, Melean, Smedberg-Dalence (Andaveris 79), Lizio (Zampieri 70), Arce (Cardozo 64; Gutierrez 90+3), Saucedo (Mojica 84). *Sent off: Zenteno 89.*

Oct 14 - Changsha
China 2 (Zheng Zhi pen 8, Wu Lei 18)
Paraguay 1 (N Ortigoza 81)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ko (SKo)
China: Wang Dalei - Zhang Linpeng, Feng Xiaoting, Sun Ke (Yu Hanchao 78), Ren Hang, Cai Huikang, Wu Xi (Mei Fang 46), Zhang Chengdong (Jiang Zhipeng 77), Wu Lei (Liao Lisheng 77), Zheng Zhi (Zhang Jiaqi 80), Yang Xu (Gao Lin 55).
Paraguay: J Silva (Medina 46) - Piris (Gomez 46), L Cardozo, Aguilar, Mendoza, M Riveros (Julian Benitez 70), Torales (C Ortiz 46), Rojas, Santa Cruz, D Gonzalez (Dominguez 59), Ovelar (N Ortigoza 46).

Oct 14 - Harrison, USA
El Salvador 1 (R Burgos pen 45)
Ecuador 5 (Plata 15, 25, E Valencia 18, 72, Penilla 82)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
El Salvador: H Hernandez - Molina, Mendoza, Renderos, Larin (Santamaria 67), Punyed (N Orellana 81), Menjivar (Ortiz 87), A Flores (I Castro 39), Monterrosa (E Burgos 50), Alvarez (Ceren 60), R Burgos.
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes (Pineida 70), Hurtado (Mina 41), Erazo, W Ayovi (Ramirez 75), Castillo (Gruezo 69), Noboa, Gonzalez (Uchuari 60), Plata (Penilla 72), Sornoza, E Valencia.

Oct 14 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 0
Argentina 7 (Banega 18, Higuain 42, 54, Gaitan 44, 72, Messi 66, 84)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Kimura (Jap)
Hong Kong: Yapp Hung-fai - Chan Wai-ho, Cheung Kin-fung (Kwok Kin-pong 65), Lee Chi-ho (Sealy 46), Agbo, Ju Yingzhi (Leung Chun-pong 60), Huang Yang (Lo Kwan-yee 80), Nagelein, Xu Deshuai (Lam Ka-wai 71), Lee Wai-lim (Annan 46), Karikari.
Argentina: Guzman (Marchesin 46) - Roncaglia (Zabaleta 60), Otamendi, Vergini, Vangioni, Perez (Pereyra 73), Gago (Mascherano 73), Banega, Pastore (Messi 60), Higuain, Gaitan (Di Maria 73).

Oct 14 - Singapore
Japan 0
Brazil 4 (Neymar 18, 48, 77, 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 51,577. **Ref:** Al Badowe (Sin)
Japan: Kawashima - G Sakai, Shiotani, Morishige, Ota, Shibasaki (Suzuki 84), Taguchi, Morioka (Honda 46), Kobayashi (Muto 52), Okazaki (Kakitani 78), Tanaka (Hosogai 70).
Brazil: Jefferson - Danilo (Mario Fernandes 46), Miranda, Gil, Filipe Luis, Elias (Kaka 76), Luiz Gustavo (Souza 72), Oscar (Coutinho 46), Willian (Everton Ribeiro 46), Neymar, Diego Tardelli (Robinho 65).

Oct 14 - Macau
Macau 2 (Leong Ka-hang 55, Torrao 90+3)
Singapore 2 (Amri 23, 36)
HT: 0-2

Oct 14 - Lima
Peru 1 (Ascues 35)
Guatemala 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lara (Ecu)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Ramos, Callens, Yotun, Ballon, Ascues (Atoche 85), Velarde (Hinostroza 63), Carrillo (Avila 72), Vargas (Benavente 57), Pizarro.
Guatemala: Jerez - Vasquez, Rivera (Giron 57), Lalin, Marquez, Arias (De Leon 71), Avila (Mejia 62), Arreola, M Lopez (Fuentes 90), Ceballos (Merida 58), C Ruiz.

Oct 14 - Doha
Qatar 1 (Ibrahim 61)
Australia 0
HT: 0-0
Australia: Langerak (Federici 46) - Herd (Franjic 63), Topor-Stanley, Behich, Wilkinson, Jedinak (Brillante 46), Oar, Bresciano, Troisi, Cahill, Kruse (Ibini-Isei 63).

Oct 14 - Jeddah
Saudi Arabia 1 (Omar Hawsawi 15)
Lebanon 1 (H Fallatah og 16)
HT: 1-1

Oct 14 - Seoul
South Korea 1 (Lee Dong-gook 45+1)
Costa Rica 3 (Borges 38, 47, Duarte 78)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Park Joo-ho (Kim Min-woo 20), Kim Young-gwon, Kim Ju-young, Cha Du-ri (Lee Yong 86), Ki Sung-yueng, Jang Hyun-soo, Lee Chung-yong, Son Heung-min (Han Kyo-won 84), Nam Tae-hee (Han Kook-young 67), Lee Dong-gook.
Costa Rica: Navas - Umana, Duarte, Gamboa (Miller 83), Diaz, Tejeda, Borges, B Ruiz, Venegas (Acosta 75), Campbell (J Ruiz 89), Ramirez (Saborio 86).

Oct 14 - Dubai
United Arab Emirates 0
Uzbekistan 4 (Kapadze 30, Ahmed og 45+1, Djeparov 68, Olimov 90+5)
HT: 0-2

Oct 14 - Boca Raton
United States 1 (Altidore 10)
Honduras 1 (M Figueroa 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,805. **Ref:** Martinez (Cub)
United States: Rimando - Chandler, Jones, Besler (Ream 64), Garza, Zusi (Yedlin 64), Diskerud (Ibarra 80), Bradley (Morales 75), Bedoya (Corona 78), Dempsey (Wood 64), Altidore.
Honduras: Escober - Crisanto, M Figueroa, Bernardez, Izaguirre, Claros (Delgado 46), Garrido, O Garcia (Rodriguez 69), Najar (M Martinez 62), Elis (M Chavez 75), Rojas (Quioto 46).

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for next stage

ESM ELEVEN

SEPTEMBER 2014

European Sports Media

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Gianluigi BUFFON (Juventus)	9 votes
Thibaut COURTOIS (Chelsea)	2
Claudio BRAVO (Barcelona)	1
Steve MANDANDA (Marseille)	1
Manuel NEUER (Bayern Munich)	1

DEFENDERS

Jeremy MATHIEU (Barcelona)	6
MIRANDA (Atletico Madrid)	5
Giorgio CHIELLINI (Juventus)	4
Branislav IVANOVIC (Chelsea)	4
Jordi ALBA (Barcelona)	3
Kostas MANOLAS (Roma)	3
Ricardo RODRIGUEZ (Wolfsburg)	3
Jerome BOATENG (Bayern Munich)	2
Leonardo BONUCCI (Juventus)	2
Ashley COLE (Roma)	2
Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Juventus)	2
Leighton BAINES (Everton)	1
CAICARA (Ludogorets)	1
Nathaniel CLYNE (Southampton)	1
Jose FONTE (Southampton)	1
Jose Luis GAYA (Valencia)	1
Diego GODIN (Atletico Madrid)	1
Benedikt HOWEDES (Schalke)	1
Tin JEDVAJ (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
JUANFRAN (Atletico Madrid)	1
Aleksandar KOLAROV (Manchester City)	1
Philipp LAHM (Bayern Munich)	1
David LUIZ (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
MAICON (Roma)	1
MARQUINHOS (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Javier MASCHERANO (Barcelona)	1
Alberto MORENO (Liverpool)	1
Nicolas NKOULOU (Marseille)	1
John TERRY (Chelsea)	1
Gregory VAN DER WIEL (Paris Saint-Germain)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Cesc FABREGAS (Chelsea)	9
Xabi ALONSO (Bayern Munich)	5
Mario GOTZE (Bayern Munich)	4
Angel DI MARIA (Manchester United)	3
Miralem PJANIC (Roma)	3
Giannelli IMBULA (Marseille)	2
KOKE (Atletico Madrid)	2
Toni KROOS (Real Madrid)	2
Radja NAINGGOLAN (Roma)	2
Arda TURAN (Atletico Madrid)	1
Gareth BALE (Real Madrid)	1
Frank LAMPARD (Manchester City)	1
Thomas MULLER (Bayern Munich)	1
Paul POGBA (Juventus)	1
Ivan RAKITIC (Barcelona)	1
Arjen ROBBEN (Bayern Munich)	1
TALISCA (Benfica)	1
Yaya TOURE (Manchester City)	1

FORWARDS

Cristiano RONALDO (Real Madrid)	13
Diego COSTA (Chelsea)	12
Carlos TEVEZ (Juventus)	5
NEYMAR (Barcelona)	4
Lionel MESSI (Barcelona)	3
Paco ALCACER (Valencia)	1
Andre-Pierre GIGNAC (Marseille)	1
Mauro ICARDI (Internazionale)	1
Francesco TOTTI (Roma)	1
Danny WELBECK (Arsenal)	1

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

The members of ESM are: *A Bola* (Portugal), *Elf* (Holland), *Fanatik* (Turkey), *Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung* (Germany), *Goal News* (Greece), *Kicker* (Germany), *Marca* (Spain), *Nemzeti Sport* (Hungary), *So Foot* (France), *Sport* (Belgium), *Sport Express* (Russia), *De Telegraaf* (Holland), *TIPSbladet* (Denmark), *World Soccer* (England)

More details of votes at worldsoccer.com/votes

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: QUALIFYING GROUP STAGE

Upset...Yannick Bolasie of the Democratic Republic of Congo (right) holds off Gervinho of the Ivory Coast in his side's shock 4-3 win

Former winners on the brink

The last three winners of the African Nations Cup face the stark reality of missing out on the next finals unless they can produce a winning finish to the qualifiers in November.

Holders Nigeria, Zambia (2012) and Egypt (2010) could all fail after unimpressive results in the group competition that leave them struggling to qualify despite the fact the top two in each of the four-team groups goes through.

The three former champions were all overshadowed by the Cape Verde Islands, who continued their fairy-tale ascent up the ladder of African football by becoming the first side to book their place in the 2015 finals.

The Cape Verdians are guaranteed a top-two finish in Group F even if they lose their last two qualifiers, after beating Niger away and winning at home to Zambia and Mozambique. Their 1-0 win in the Lusophone derby against Mozambique came through a late goal from Heldon in Praia.

"They are a very strong squad, very homogenous, many players are friends. I'm delighted for them," said former Portuguese World Cup striker Rui Aguas, who took over as Cape Verde coach earlier this year.

Zambia can take the other berth from the group if they beat Mozambique and the Cape Verdians in their last two qualifiers, on November 15 and 19.

After two draws and a defeat at the halfway stage of the qualifiers, Zambia finally won a game, beating Niger 3-0. But new coach Honor Janza is battling to impose himself and he was forced to kick veteran captain Chris Katongo out of his squad on the eve of the match in order to try to maintain some control. Ill discipline and a negative attitude were cited as the reasons for Katongo's expulsion.

Algeria's 3-0 win over Malawi a few hours later saw them qualify and remain the only team with a 100 per cent record. They have kicked on in impressive style on the back of making it to the knockout stage at the World Cup in Brazil.

Nigeria's fortunes are in their own hands and they must win away to Congo and beat South Africa at home to qualify from Group A.

Political in fighting for control of the Nigerian Football Federation has been at the heart of some uninspired performances and coach Stephen Keshi, who won the tournament less than two years ago, was dismissed after the Super Eagles' 3-1 win at home to Sudan. Former coach Shuaibu Amodu was put in temporary charge for the remaining qualifiers – "after which an expatriate coach will be appointed", according to the Nigerian Football Federation.

> "Some people are ready to sell this country for a dime. They want to sabotage the 'Super Eagles'. They don't want this team to get to the Nations Cup"
>
> Sacked Nigeria coach Stephen Keshi

Late winner...Tunisia substitute Sassi

Egypt's back-to-back victories over Botswana were expected but also resurrected their chances in a tough group that also includes Tunisia and Senegal.

Tunisia are on the cusp of qualification after an undeserved win over Senegal at home in Monastir where substitute Ferjani Sassi scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Cameroon should also advance after they beat Sierra Leone 2-0, but the Ivory Coast lost 4-3 at home to the Democratic Republic of Congo in a thrilling spectacle just days after they won 2-1 in Kinshasa.

It has proved a difficult start for French coach Herve Renard, who won the tournament with Zambia and is now seeking to regenerate the Ivory Coast after Didier Drogba, Didier Zokora and Kolo Toure ended their international careers.

South Africa's new coach Ephraim Mashaba is putting his faith in youth, picked a young squad that included 17-year-old defender Rivaldo Coetzee, and despite their inexperience his side top Group A.

They would have secured a finals spot had they beaten Congo at home just five days after overcoming the same team 2-0 away in Pointe Noire. But they spurned the chance in Polokwane in a goalless draw and must now wait for the home game against Sudan to ensure progress.

Ghana are also on track despite dismissing coach Kwesi Appiah. Caretaker Maxwell Konadu saw his side draw 1-1 with Guinea in neutral Casablanca, followed by a 3-1 win over the same opponent days later in Tamale.

Mark Gleeson

● *See results and tables, page 87*

EURO 2016 QUALIFYING GROUP STAGE

Heading for a fall...Germany's Jerome Boateng (left) clashes with Grzegorz Krychowiak as Poland beat the world champions

The surprise results continue

Far from making life easier for the continent's leading teams, the expanded format for the European Championship qualifiers produced further shocks in the latest round of matches.

Four of the six European teams – Germany, Holland, Greece and Switzerland – who reached the last 16 of the World Cup in Brazil suffered defeats in their latest games, while Spain's eight-year, 36-game unbeaten run in qualifying games was ended by Slovakia.

Spain's 2-1 defeat in Zilina was the fourth loss in six games for Vicente Del Bosque's side, continuing a poor run of form since their premature exit from the World Cup in Brazil.

A mistake from goalkeeper Iker Casillas allowed a defensive-minded Slovakia to score the opening goal before new cap Paco Alcacer replied. But Miroslav Stoch struck a late winner for Slovakia on the counter-attack.

Del Bosque described the defeat as "absolutely unexpected", adding: "I don't think we're on a bad run. That's football."

Spain bounced back with a 4-0 victory over Luxembourg three days later, with Casillas dropped to the bench in place of David De Gea. Diego Costa, winning his seventh cap, scored his first goal for Spain, while debutant Juan Bernat also made the scoresheet.

Spain dropped to second place in Group C behind surprise leaders Slovakia, who won 3-1 in Belarus to maintain their 100 per cent record.

In Group D, world champions Germany dropped to third place after a 2-0 defeat to Poland and 1-1 draw with the Republic of Ireland. The defeat in Warsaw was the Poles' first victory over Germany in 19 meetings over 81 years. Arkadiusz Milik put Poland ahead with a header in the 51st minute and Sebastian Mila added another late in the game.

"We had a little bit of luck, that's why we won," said Poland defender Lukasz Piszczek.

"We took our chances. We had two or three, and we scored two goals. Germany had a lot of chances and they didn't take them."

Germany were missing a number of key players through injury, including Bastian Schweinsteiger and Marco Reus, and gave a debut to Bayer Leverkusen winger Karim Bellarabi.

"I can't fault the team, but perhaps we should have made more of our chances," said Germany coach Joachim Low, whose side last lost a qualifying tie 33 matches ago in October 2007.

Germany looked to have recovered against Ireland in Dortmund four days later. Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos appeared to have won the match when his long-range shot snaked past keeper David Forde in the 71st minute. But John O'Shea, making his 100th appearance, scored a dramatic equaliser with the last kick of the game.

Poland now top the group, despite being held 2-2 by Scotland, with the Republic of Ireland in second place.

Scotland's draw in Warsaw keeps them in contention after a gritty 1-0 home win over Georgia at Ibrox.

Group A has an unfamiliar look,

with Iceland in first place and Holland back in third after the Icelanders inflicted an important defeat on the Dutch.

Guus Hiddink's side had struggled to overcome Kazakhstan in Amsterdam three days earlier after Renat Abdullin gave his side a shock lead with a powerful 17th-minute header from a poorly-defended corner. Holland had to wait until the 61st minute for an equaliser from Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, and only sealed the victory with a deflected 82nd-minute shot by Ibrahim Afellay, back in the side after two years, and a last-minute Robin Van Persie penalty.

Against Iceland in Reykjavik, the Dutch came up against a side that is growing in confidence. Swansea midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson scored twice before the break to put the hosts in a commanding position and thereafter Holland were unable to break down a rigid Iceland defence.

The result meant Iceland have now won their first three qualifying matches for the first time and top the group, along with the Czech Republic, who also have maximum points following their victories over Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Turkey, after a draw with Latvia, are bottom of the group.

In Group F, Greece are struggling to adapt to post-World Cup retirements and life under new boss Claudio Ranieri. They lost to surprise group leaders Northern Ireland in Piraeus and were held to a 1-1 draw in Finland.

Northern Ireland's victory in Greece was their third successive win and marked their best-ever start to a qualifying campaign.

"The players are delighted too, but I don't think they're surprised," said manager Michael O'Neill. "The players have performed so well that there was confidence in them and we got a performance of real discipline and excellent quality when we had the opportunity to break and counter attack."

Crunch...Hungary's Adam Szalai is brought down by Florin Gardos of Romania

Romania lie second in the group after being held to a draw in Bucharest by Hungary. In a fiery game that featured 12 yellow cards and crowd trouble, Raul Rusescu gave Romania a deserved lead on the stroke of half-time, but Hungary recovered through Balazs Dzsudzsak's perfectly executed free-kick.

> "It will do us good as it means we won't let ourselves make the same mistake again"
>
> Spain's Paco Alcacer on losing to Slovakia

Shock...Slovakia's Jan Durica (left) and Martin Skrtel celebrate beating Spain

Wales are unbeaten and on top of Group B after gritty performances to beat Cyprus and draw with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Second-placed Belgium boosted their goal difference with a 6-0 home win over Andorra but were then held 1-1 away to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

England, with maximum points from three games, lead Group E. Roy Hodgson's side have yet to concede a goal and secured wins in Estonia and at home to San Marino to stay ahead of a chasing pack headed by Slovenia, who picked up useful wins over Switzerland and Lithuania. Internazionale keeper Samir Handanovic was in sparkling form for Slovenia to deny the Swiss with a series of saves in Maribor. Milivoje Novakovic's penalty, after Johan Djourou had brought down substitute Kevin Kampl, gave Slovenia a 1-0 win.

In Group G, Sweden and Russia shared the points in Stockholm. Aleksandr Kokorin gave Russia an early lead, but Ola Toivonen, deputising for the injured Zlatan Ibrahimovic equalised for Sweden. Earlier, Sebastian Larsson's penalty had been saved by Igor Akinfeev.

That result allowed Austria to move top of the group after wins over Moldova and Montenegro.

Russia coach Fabio Capello came under further criticism following a home draw with Moldova. His situation was further compounded by the revelation that he has not been paid by the Russia FA since June.

In Group H, Croatia and Italy both have maximum points, but Italy were not entirely convincing in the 2-1 win over Azerbaijan, when defender Giorgio Chiellini scored all three goals.

Against Malta, Graziano Pelle scored the only goal of the game on his Italy debut.

A Nikolay Bodurov own goal secured a 1-0 win for Croatia in Bulgaria, and that was followed by a 6-0 thrashing of Azerbaijan, which led to the departure of coach Berti Vogts.

Group I is wide open, with results overshadowed by events at the Serbia-Albania game in Belgrade. Portugal, watched by new coach Fernando Santos – whose eight-game ban was suspended by the Court of Arbitration for Sport – picked up a dramatic win in Denmark.

The match seemed to be heading for a goalless stalemate, with Danish keeper Kasper Schmeichel in inspired form. But Ricardo Quaresma's cross in the fifth minute of stoppage-time was met by Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal snatched the points.

John Holmesdale

Trouble...Standard Liege

BELGIUM

Match abandoned

Standard Liege's game at home to Zulte Waregem was abandoned after 89 minutes when supporters broke fences and threw seats onto the pitch with the visitors leading 2-1.

Standard coach Guy Luzon resigned after the loss to league's bottom-of-the-league side. He was replaced temporarily by his assistant, Ivan Vukomanovic.

BULGARIA

Behind closed doors

The Bulgarian Football Union has ruled that clubs whose supporters cause trouble will be forced to play at neutral venues instead of behind closed doors.

"Visiting fans are not to blame for the violations committed by the home club's supporters," explained a BFU statement. Matches would be played in one of three cities: Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad or Sliven.

CYPRUS

Officials targeted

The offices of the Cyprus referees' association in Nicosia were the target of a pipe-bomb attack. A fire bomb had previously been thrown at the home of an assistant referee in Limassol, while a bomb damaged the car of a prominent ref and the head of the association earlier in the year.

FAROE ISLANDS

B36 win league

B36 Torshavn clinched their 10th Faroese championship with a game to spare after

Club Results

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 1

Atletico Madrid (Spa) 1 (Arda 75)
Juventus (Ita) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,322. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Atletico: Moya - Juanfran, Godin, Miranda, Ansaldi, Koke, Tiago, Saul Niguez (Griezmann 53), Raul Garcia, Mandzukic (Mario Suarez 84), Arda (Siqueira 90).
Juventus: Buffon - Caceres (Pereyra 78), Bonucci, Chiellini, Marchisio, Lichtsteiner (Giovinco 90), Vidal (Morata 83), Pogba, Evra, Tevez, Llorente.

Oct 1

Malmo (Swe) 2 (Rosenberg 42, 82)
Olympiakos (Gre) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,500. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
Malmo: Olsen - Tinnerholm, Johansson, Helander, Ricardinho, Thelin, Adu, Halsti, Forsberg (Rakip 90+2), Rosenberg, Eriksson (Cibicki 75).
Olympiakos: Roberto - Elabdellaoui, Botia, Abidal, Masuaku, N'Dinga (Dominguez 57), Milivojevic, Maniatis, Kasami (Durmaz 69), Mitroglou, Afellay (Diamantakos 79).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
At Madrid	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Malmo	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Olympiakos	2	1	0	1	3	4	3

Sep 16	Juventus v Malmo	2-0
	Olympiakos v Atletico Madrid	3-2
Oct 1	Atletico Madrid v Juventus	1-0
	Malmo v Olympiakos	2-0
Oct 22	Atletico Madrid v Malmo	
	Olympiakos v Juventus	
Nov 4	Juventus v Olympiakos	
	Malmo v Atletico Madrid	
Nov 26	Atletico Madrid v Olympiakos	
	Malmo v Juventus	
Dec 9	Juventus v Atletico Madrid	
	Olympiakos v Malmo	

Group B

Oct 1

Basle (Swi) 1 (Streller 52)
Liverpool (Eng) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Basle: Vaclik - Xhaka, Schar, Suchy, Safari (Gonzalez 9), Die, Frei, El Neny, Embolo (Calla 81), Hamoudi (Zuffi 90+2), Streller.
Liverpool: Mignolet - Jose Enrique, Lovren, Skrtel, Javi Manquillo, Gerrard, Henderson, Sterling, Markovic (Lambert 81), Coutinho (Lallana 70), Balotelli.

Oct 1

Ludogorets (Bul) 1 (Marcelinho 6)
Real Madrid (Spa) 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 24, Benzema 77)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 41,484. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Ludogorets: Stoyanov - Junior Caicara, A Aleksandrov, Moti, Minev, M Aleksandrov (Misidjan 82), Dyakov, Fabio Espinho (Anicet 82), Dani Abalo, Marcelinho (Wanderson 70), Bezjak.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Varane, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Modric (Kroos 73), Illarramendi, Isco (Rodriguez 76), Bale, Hernandez (Benzema 67), Cristiano Ronaldo.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Basle	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ludogorets	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Sep 16	Liverpool v Ludogorets	2-1
	Real Madrid v Basle	5-1
Oct 1	Basle v Liverpool	1-0
	Ludogorets v Real Madrid	1-2
Oct 22	Liverpool v Real Madrid	
	Ludogorets v Basle	
Nov 4	Basle v Ludogorets	
	Real Madrid v Liverpool	
Nov 26	Basle v Real Madrid	
	Ludogorets v Liverpool	
Dec 9	Liverpool v Basle	
	Real Madrid v Ludogorets	

Group C

Oct 1

Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 3 (Kiessling 25, Son 34, Calhanoglu pen 64)
Benfica (Por) 1 (Salvio 62)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,202. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Leverkusen: Leno - Hilbert, Toprak, Spahic, Wendell, Bender (Donati 82), Reinartz, Bellarabi (Oztunali 69), Calhanoglu, Son, Kiessling (Drmic 76).
Benfica: Julio Cesar - Andre Almeida, Luisao, Jardel, Eliseu, Cristante (Pereira 46), Perez (Samaris 77), Talisca (Lima 46), Salvio, Gaitan, Derley.

Oct 1

Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 0
Monaco (Fra) 0
Att: 13,817. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Zenit: Lodygin - Anyukov (Arshavin 88), Garay, Lombaerts, Criscito, Javi Garcia, Fayzulin, Hulk, Danny, Shatov (Smolnikov 66), Rondon (Kerzhakov 75).
Monaco: Subasic - Fabinho, Ricardo Carvalho, Raggi, Kurzawa, Toulalan, Kondogbia, Joao Moutinho (Bakayoko 90+2), Dirar, Ocampos (Germain 80), Berbatov (Ferreira Carrasco 52).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Monaco	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Benfica	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Sep 16	Benfica v Zenit	0-2
	Monaco v Leverkusen	1-0
Oct 1	Leverkusen v Benfica	3-1
	Zenit v Monaco	0-0
Oct 22	Leverkusen v Zenit	
	Monaco v Benfica	
Nov 4	Benfica v Monaco	
	Zenit v Leverkusen	
Nov 26	Leverkusen v Monaco	
	Zenit v Benfica	
Dec 9	Benfica v Leverkusen	
	Monaco v Zenit	

Group D

Oct 1

Anderlecht (Blg) 0
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 3 (Immobile 3, Ramos 69, 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,649. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Anderlecht: Proto - Najar, Mbemba, Nuytinck, Deschacht, Tielemans, Defour, Conte (Acheampong 73), Praet, Suarez (Cyriac 82), Mitrovic (Kabasele 82).
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Papastathopoulos, Schmelzer, Bender (Hummels 82), Kehl, Aubameyang, Kagawa, Grosskreutz (Ramos 65), Immobile (Durm 72).

Oct 1

Arsenal (Eng) 4 (Welbeck 22, 30, 52, Sanchez 41)
Galatasaray (Tur) 1 (Burak pen 63)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 59,803. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Arsenal: Szczesny - Chambers, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Gibbs, Flamini, Cazorla, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Rosicky 68), Ozil (Wilshere 77), Sanchez (Ospina 62), Welbeck.
Sent off: Szczesny 60.
Galatasaray: Muslera - Semih, Felipe Melo, Chedjou, Veysel (Umut 68), Yekta (Altintop 46), Sneijder, Dzemaili, Alex Telles, Burak, Pandev (Bruma 68).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dortmund	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Arsenal	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Galatasaray	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

Sep 16	Dortmund v Arsenal	2-0
	Galatasaray v Anderlecht	1-1
Oct 1	Anderlecht v Dortmund	0-3
	Arsenal v Galatasaray	4-1
Oct 22	Anderlecht v Arsenal	
	Galatasaray v Dortmund	
Nov 4	Arsenal v Anderlecht	
	Dortmund v Galatasaray	
Nov 26	Anderlecht v Galatasaray	
	Arsenal v Dortmund	
Dec 9	Dortmund v Anderlecht	
	Galatasaray v Arsenal	

Group E

Sep 30

CSKA Moscow (Rus) 0
Bayern Munich (Ger) 1 (Muller pen 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Played behind closed doors
CSKA: Akinfeev - Mario Fernandes, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Schennikov, Tosic (Efremov 78), Natcho (Doumbia 66), Eremenko, Milanov, Musa.
Bayern: Neuer - Benatia, Dante, Xabi Alonso, Lahm, Bernat, Alaba, Robben (Rafinha 81), Muller, Gotze (Shaqiri 77), Lewandowski (Pizarro 90).

Sep 30

Manchester City (Eng) 1 (Aguero pen 4)
Roma (Ita) 1 (Totti 23)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 37,509. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Demichelis, Clichy, Toure, Fernandinho, Jesus Navas (Milner 46), Silva, Dzeko (Lampard 57), Aguero (Jovetic 84).
Roma: Skorupski - Maicon (Torosidis 89), Manolas, Yanga-Mbiwa, Cole, Pjanic, Keita, Nainggolan, Florenzi (Holebas 83), Totti (Iturbe 72), Gervinho.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Roma	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Man City	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
CSKA Moscow	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Sep 17	Bayern v Manchester City	1-0
	Roma v CSKA	5-1
Sep 30	CSKA v Bayern	0-1
	Manchester City v Roma	1-1
Oct 21	CSKA v Manchester City	
	Roma v Bayern	
Nov 5	Bayern v Roma	
	Manchester City v CSKA	
Nov 25	CSKA v Roma	
	Manchester City v Bayern	
Dec 10	Bayern v CSKA	
	Roma v Manchester City	

Group F

Sep 30

APOEL (Cyp) 1 (Manduca pen 31)
Ajax (Hol) 1 (Andersen 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,190. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
APOEL: Pardo - Mario Sergio, Joao Guilherme, Carlao, Antoniades, Nuno Morais, Vinicius, Tiago Gomes (De Vincenti 71), Aloneftis, Manduca (Efrem 79), Sheridan (Djebbour 82).
Ajax: Cillessen - Van Rhijn, Veltman, Moisander, Boilesen, Viergever, Klaassen, Serero, Schone (El Ghazi 74), Andersen (Kishna 74), Sigthorsson.

Sep 30

Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 3 (David Luiz 10, Verratti 26, Matuidi 54)
Barcelona (Spa) 2 (Messi 12, Neymar 56)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 46,400. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
PSG: Sirigu - Van der Wiel, Marquinhos, David Luiz, Maxwell, Verratti (Cabaye 71), Thiago Motta, Matuidi, Lucas Moura (Bahebeck 90+1), Cavani, Pastore (Chantome 86).
Barcelona: Ter Stegen - Daniel Alves (Sandro 83), Mascherano, Mathieu, Jordi Alba, Rakitic (Xavi 69), Busquets, Iniesta, Pedro (Munir 62), Messi, Neymar.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Barcelona	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Ajax	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
APOEL	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Sep 17	Ajax v PSG	1-1
	Barcelona v APOEL	1-0
Sep 30	APOEL v Ajax	1-1
	PSG v Barcelona	3-2
Oct 21	APOEL v PSG	
	Barcelona v Ajax	
Nov 5	Ajax v Barcelona	
	PSG v APOEL	
Nov 25	APOEL v Barcelona	
	PSG v Ajax	
Dec 10	Ajax v APOEL	
	Barcelona v PSG	

Group G

Sep 30

Schalke (Ger) 1 (Huntelaar 56)
Maribor (Sln) 1 (Bohar 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,997. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Schalke: Fahrmann - Ayhan (Uchida 46), Neustadter, Matip, Fuchs, Aogo, Boateng (Meyer 79), Choupo-Moting (Obasi 66), Barnetta, Draxler, Huntelaar.
Maribor: Handanovic - Mejac, Rajcevic, Suler, Viler, Filipovic, Mertelj (N'Diaye 80), Vrsic (Mendy 67), Bohar (Sallalich 83), Tavares, Ibraimi.

a 3-1 victory over already-relegated B68 Toftir.

B36 had to come from behind against B68 to win their first title since 2011. Adeshina Lawal cancelled out Ibrahima Camara's opener before Alex Mellemgaard and Klaemint Matras wrapped things up.

"I am really moved," said captain Jakup Borg. "The older you get, the more emotional it becomes."

Glad tidings...Santa Claus won promotion in Finland

FINLAND

Santa Claus success

Helsinki-based HJK claimed their sixth consecutive championship, and their 27th overall, with four games to spare after winning 4-1 at TPS of Turku.

The title win was a first for coach Mika Lehkosuo, who replaced Sixten Bostrom in April.

Meanwhile, Santa Claus won promotion to the third tier of Finnish football.

The club from Rovaniemi, which is the capital of northern province Lapland near the Arctic Circle, plays in red and white – of course – and team spokesman Jouni Toyras says: "We're happy to show people that we're in this for fun, but we also take it seriously as you can see from our fine result."

Sep 30
Sporting Lisbon (Por) 0
Chelsea (Eng) 1 (Matic 34)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,734. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Sporting: Rui Patricio - Cedric Soares, Mauricio (Paulo Oliveira 64), Sarr, Silva, Joao Mario, William Carvalho, Adrien Silva (Montero 81), Carrillo (Capel 81), Slimani, Nani.
Chelsea: Courtois - Ivanovic, Cahill, Terry, Filipe Luis, Fabregas, Matic, Schurrle (Willian 58), Oscar (Mikel 71), Hazard (Salah 84), Diego Costa.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Maribor	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Schalke	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Sporting	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Sep 17	Chelsea v Schalke	1-1
	Maribor v Sporting	1-1
Sep 30	Schalke v Maribor	1-1
	Sporting v Chelsea	0-1
Oct 21	Chelsea v Maribor	
	Schalke v Sporting	
Nov 5	Maribor v Chelsea	
	Sporting v Schalke	
Nov 25	Schalke v Chelsea	
	Sporting v Maribor	
Dec 10	Chelsea v Sporting	
	Maribor v Schalke	

Group H

Sep 30
BATE Borisov (Bls) 2 (Polyakov 19, Karnitski 41)
Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 1 (Aduriz 45)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 11,886. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
BATE: Chernik - Khagush, Polyakov, Filipenko, Mladenovic, Yablonski, A Volodko, Gordeychuk (Olekhnovich 90+2), Karnitski (Rodionov 86), M Volodko (Yakovlev 81), Signevich.
Athletic: Iraizoz - Iraola (Toquero 77), San Jose, Laporte, Balenziaga, Iturraspe, Benat, Muniain, Mikel Rico (Susaeta 46), Ibai Gomez (De Marcos 46), Aduriz.

Sep 30
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 2 (Alex Teixeira 52, Luiz Adriano 85)
Porto (Por) 2 (Martinez pen 89, 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,217. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakitskyi, Marcio Azevedo, Stepanenko, Fernando, Douglas Costa (Bernard 79), Alex Teixeira, Taison (Ilsinho 75), Luiz Adriano.
Porto: Fabiano - Danilo, Maicon, Martins Indi, Marcano (Quintero 65), Alex Sandro, Herrera, Brahimi (Adrian 78), Oliver, Tello, Aboubakar (Martinez 65).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	2	1	1	0	8	2	4
BATE Borisov	2	1	0	1	2	7	3
Shakhtar	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Athletic Bilbao	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Sep 17	Athletic Bilbao v Shakhtar	0-0
	Porto v BATE	6-0
Sep 30	BATE v Athletic Bilbao	2-1
	Shakhtar v Porto	2-2
Oct 21	BATE v Shakhtar	
	Porto v Athletic Bilbao	
Nov 5	Athletic Bilbao v Porto	
	Shakhtar v BATE	
Nov 25	BATE v Porto	
	Shakhtar v Athletic Bilbao	
Dec 10	Athletic Bilbao v BATE	
	Porto v Shakhtar	

● *Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round (last 16); 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage (last 32)*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A
Oct 2: Villarreal (Spa) 4 Apollon (Cyp) 0; Zurich (Swi) 1 Monchengladbach (Ger) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Villarreal	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Apollon	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
M'gladbach	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Zurich	2	0	1	1	3	4	1

Group B
Oct 2: HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0 Club Brugge (Blg) 3; Torino (Ita) 1 Copenhagen (Den) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Torino	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Copenhagen	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
HJK Helsinki	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group C
Oct 2: Asteras (Gre) 2 Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 0; Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 1 Besiktas (Tur) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Asteras	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Besiktas	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Tottenham	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Partizan	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group D
Oct 2: Astra (Rom) 1 Salzburg (Aut) 2; Celtic (Sco) 1 Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Salzburg	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Dinamo Zagreb	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Astra	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

Group E
Oct 2: Dynamo Moscow (Rus) 1 PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0; Estoril (Por) 2 Panathinaikos (Gre) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Mo'w	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
PSV	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Estoril	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Panathinaikos	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group F
Oct 2: Internazionale (Ita) 2 Qarabag (Aze) 0; Saint-Etienne (Fra) 0 Dnipro (Ukr) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Saint-Etienne	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Dnipro	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Qarabag	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group G
Oct 2: Feyenoord (Hol) 2 Standard Liege (Blg) 1; Rijeka (Cro) 2 Sevilla (Spa) 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sevilla	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Standard Liege	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Rijeka	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group H
Oct 2: Krasnodar (Rus) 1 Everton (Eng) 1; Wolfsburg (Ger) 1 Lille (Fra) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Krasnodar	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Lille	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Wolfsburg	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

Group I
Oct 2: Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 0 Napoli (Ita) 2; Sparta Prague (CzR) 3 Young Boys (Swi) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Sparta Prague	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Young Boys	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Slovan B'slava	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Group J
Oct 2: AaB (Den) 1 Rio Ave (Por) 0; Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 3 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Steaua	2	1	0	1	7	3	3
AaB	2	1	0	1	1	6	3
Rio Ave	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group K
Oct 2: Dinamo Minsk (Bls) 0 Fiorentina (Ita) 3; Guingamp (Fra) 2 PAOK Salonika (Gre) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP K

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
PAOK Salonika	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Guingamp	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Dinamo Minsk	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

Group L
Oct 2: Lokeren (Blg) 1 Metalist (Ukr) 0; Trabzonspor (Tur) 0 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP L

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Trabzonspor	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Lokeren	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Metalist	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Remaining matchdays:
Oct 23, Nov 6, Nov 27, Dec 11

● *Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round (last 32), in which they will be joined by the 8 3rd-placed teams from the Champions League group stage*

AUSTRIA

Sep 27: Sturm 2 Altach 2; Grodig 0 Austria 0; Wolfsberger 2 Admira 1; Wiener Neustadt 0 Ried 1.
Sep 28: Rapid 1 Salzburg 2.
Oct 4: Austria 0 Wolfsberger 2; Sturm 1 Grodig 0; Admira 0 Altach 2.
Oct 5: Ried 1 Rapid 2; Salzburg 4 Wiener Neustadt 1.
Oct 18: Salzburg 4 Ried 2; Rapid 0 Admira 0; Wolfsberger 1 Grodig 2; Altach 1 Austria 1.
Oct 19: Wiener Neustadt 0 Sturm 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	12	9	0	3	43	12	27
Wolfsberger	12	9	0	3	24	11	27
Rapid	12	5	4	3	19	15	19
Altach	12	4	5	3	15	17	17
Sturm	12	4	4	4	15	15	16
Grodig	12	3	5	4	13	21	14
Austria	12	2	7	3	14	18	13
Admira	12	3	4	5	14	19	13
Ried	12	2	3	7	14	23	9
W Neustadt	12	2	2	8	13	33	8

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season
Sep 27: Zulte Waregem 0 Anderlecht 2; Kortrijk 3 Mouscron Peruwelz 0; Mechelen 2 Waasland-Beveren 0; Cercle Brugge 1 Westerlo 2; Genk 1 Charleroi 1.
Sep 28: Gent 1 Lokeren 1; Standard 2 Lierse 2; Oostende 2 Club Brugge 2.
Oct 3: Westerlo 0 Gent 0.
Oct 4: Charleroi 0 Kortrijk 2; Mouscron Peruwelz 1 Mechelen 1; Lierse 3 Zulte Waregem 1; Waasland-Beveren 1 Cercle Brugge 0.
Oct 5: Club Brugge 3 Standard 0; Anderlecht 0 Genk 0; Lokeren 3 Oostende 1.
Oct 18: Mechelen 1 Anderlecht 1; Oostende 0 Mouscron Peruwelz 0; Kortrijk 2 Waasland-Beveren 1; Cercle Brugge 1 Lierse 2; Gent 2 Charleroi 2.
Oct 19: Standard 1 Zulte Waregem 2; Lokeren 1 Club Brugge 3; Genk 3 Westerlo 1.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	11	6	5	0	19	10	23
Club Brugge	11	5	5	1	22	11	20
Gent	11	5	4	2	16	10	19
Lokeren	11	5	3	3	16	13	18
Westerlo	11	4	5	2	22	19	17
Kortrijk	11	5	1	5	15	18	16
Genk	11	3	7	1	14	12	16
Oostende	11	4	3	4	15	16	15
Mechelen	11	4	2	5	19	18	14
Mouscron P	11	3	4	4	16	15	13
Charleroi	11	3	3	5	13	16	12
Standard	11	3	3	5	19	23	12
Lierse	11	3	3	5	14	21	12
Waasland-B	11	3	2	6	11	14	11
Cercle Brugge	11	2	3	6	8	15	9
Z Waregem	11	2	3	6	13	21	9

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will enter relegation play-off series (the winners of which will enter rel/prom play-offs, the losers will go down)

FRANCE

OM equal club record

Marseille equalled a club record of eight straight league victories with a 2-0 win against Toulouse.

Nicolas N'Koulou and Ligue 1's top scorer Andre-Pierre Gignac were on target in front of a Stade Velodrome record attendance of 61,846.

The Stade de France staged its first Ligue 1 fixture since 2009 when it hosted Lens' "home" game against Paris Saint-Germain.

Refurbishment work at Lens' Stade Bollaert-Delelis ground means they have had to play home games elsewhere this season – and the game against PSG was moved more than 100 miles away to the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis. The defending champions won 3-1.

Out of action...Felipe

GERMANY

Defender has a stroke

Wolfsburg's Brazilian defender Felipe has revealed that he suffered a minor stroke during the summer while at home watching a World Cup game on TV. He was rushed to hospital by the Bundesliga side's physiotherapist, Michele Putaro, and the 27-year-old says: "You can perhaps say that Michele saved my life."

The centre-half, who has also played in Germany for Stuttgart after spending five years with Portugal's Nacional, will have to take a break from the game while he recovers but says: "I am certain that I will return to professional football.

"There is no reason for me not to believe in my comeback on the pitch."

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 26: Teplice 4 Slovacko 0.
Sep 27: Ceske Budejovice 0 Pribram 3; Hradec Kralove 0 Jablonec 2; Dukla 4 Jihlava 1; Ostrava 1 Bohemians 1905 0; Brno 2 Plzen 3; Slavia 0 Sparta 2.
Sep 28: Liberec 0 Mlada Boleslav 0.
Oct 3: Jablonec 6 Dukla 0.
Oct 4: Bohemians 1905 3 Ceske Budejovice 0; Jihlava 1 Slavia 0; Pribram 1 Hradec Kralove 0; Mlada Boleslav 5 Brno 1; Slovacko 1 Ostrava 2.
Oct 5: Sparta 1 Liberec 0; Plzen 1 Teplice 0.
Oct 17: Ostrava 0 Jihlava 0.
Oct 18: Liberec 2 Slovacko 2; Hradec Kralove 2 Ceske Budejovice 3; Slavia 1 Jablonec 1; Teplice 4 Bohemians 1905 1; Brno 1 Sparta 3.
Oct 19: Mlada Boleslav 0 Plzen 3.

CZECH REPUBLIC	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plzen	11	8	2	1	25	8	26
Sparta	11	8	1	2	17	5	25
Jablonec	11	6	3	2	21	9	21
Ostrava	11	5	3	3	8	13	18
Teplice	11	4	5	2	18	10	17
M Boleslav	11	5	2	4	16	10	17
Boh'ians 1905	11	5	1	5	16	17	16
Slovacko	11	4	3	4	22	18	15
Slavia	11	4	1	6	14	16	13
Brno	11	3	3	5	15	19	12
Dukla	10	3	3	4	9	16	12
Pribram	10	3	2	5	12	18	11
C Budejovice	11	2	5	4	10	22	11
Liberec	11	1	7	3	13	12	10
Jihlava	11	2	2	7	6	15	8
H Kralove	11	1	3	7	6	20	6

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

DENMARK

Sep 26: AaB 0 Randers 0.
Sep 27: SonderjyskE 1 Copenhagen 1; Silkeborg 2 Hobro 2.
Sep 28: Midtjylland 1 Vestsjaelland 0; Esbjerg 2 Brondby 2.
Sep 29: Nordsjaelland 2 OB 1.
Oct 3: Hobro 1 Midtjylland 5.
Oct 4: OB 2 Silkeborg 0.
Oct 5: Vestsjaelland 1 SonderjyskE 1; Randers 0 Nordsjaelland 0; Copenhagen 2 Esbjerg 1; Brondby 2 AaB 1.
Oct 17: AaB 1 Hobro 1.
Oct 18: Nordsjaelland 2 SonderjyskE 3.
Oct 19: Midtjylland 2 Silkeborg 1; Brondby 5 Vestsjaelland 0; Copenhagen 1 Randers 0.
Oct 20: Esbjerg 2 OB 0.

DENMARK	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Midtjylland	11	9	0	2	25	12	27
Nordsjaelland	11	6	2	3	17	16	20
Randers	11	5	3	3	9	8	18
Copenhagen	11	5	3	3	11	11	18
Brondby	11	5	2	4	18	12	17
Hobro	11	4	5	2	17	14	17
SonderjyskE	11	2	7	2	12	13	13
AaB	11	2	6	3	10	10	12
Esbjerg	11	2	5	4	13	13	11
Vestsjaelland	11	3	2	6	12	20	11
OB	11	2	3	6	12	16	9
Silkeborg	11	0	4	7	6	17	4

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 27

Arsenal 1 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 74)
Tottenham 1 (Chadli 56) Att: 59,900

Chelsea 3 (Oscar 7, Diego Costa 59, Willian 79)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 41,616

Crystal Palace 2 (Campbell 51, Jedinak 54)
Leicester 0 Att: 24,311

Hull 2 (Mangala og 21, Hernandez pen 32)
Manchester City 4 (Aguero 7, Dzeko 11, 68, Lampard 87) Att: 22,859

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 65)
Everton 1 (Jagielka 90+1) Att: 44,511

Manchester United 2 (Rooney 5, Van Persie 22)
West Ham 1 (Sakho 37) Att: 75,317

Southampton 2 (Bertrand 54, Pelle 68)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 66) Att: 30,504

Sunderland 0
Swansea 0 Att: 41,325

Sunday, September 28

West Bromwich 4 (Dawson 30, Berahino 45+1, 56, Dorrans 90)
Burnley 0 Att: 24,286

Monday, September 29

Stoke 1 (Crouch 15)
Newcastle 0 Att: 26,332

Saturday, October 4

Aston Villa 0
Manchester City 2 (Toure 82, Aguero 88) Att: 32,964

Hull 2 (Diame 60, Jelavic 89)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 24,281

Leicester 2 (Schlupp 33, Mahrez 40)
Burnley 2 (Kightly 39, Wallace 90+6) Att: 31,448

Liverpool 2 (Lallana 45, Henderson 61)
West Bromwich 1 (Berahino pen 56) Att: 44,708

Sunderland 3 (Wickham 4, Fletcher 23, 79)
Stoke 1 (Adam 15) Att: 42,713

Swansea 2 (Bony 17, Routledge 50)
Newcastle 2 (Cisse 43, 75) Att: 20,622

Sunday, October 5

Chelsea 2 (Hazard pen 27, Diego Costa 78)
Arsenal 0 Att: 41,607

Manchester United 2 (Di Maria 27, Falcao 62)
Everton 1 (Naismith 55) Att: 75,294

Tottenham 1 (Eriksen 40)
Southampton 0 Att: 35,564

West Ham 2 (Onuoha og 5, Sakho 59)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 34,907

Saturday, October 18

Arsenal 2 (Sanchez 13, Welbeck 90+1)
Hull 2 (Diame 17, Hernandez 46) Att: 60,004

Burnley 1 (Boyd 60)
West Ham 3 (Sakho 49, Valencia 54, Cole 70) Att: 18,936

Crystal Palace 1 (Campbell 90)
Chelsea 2 (Oscar 6, Fabregas 51) Att: 24,451

Everton 3 (Jagielka 18, Lukaku 48, Coleman 76)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 39,505

Manchester City 4 (Aguero 13, pen 20, pen 68, 75)
Tottenham 1 (Eriksen 15) Att: 45,549

Newcastle 1 (Obertan 71)
Leicester 0 Att: 51,886

Southampton 8 (Vergini og 12, Pelle 18, 69, Cork 37, Bridcutt og 63, Tadic 78, Wanyama 79, Mane 86)
Sunderland 0 Att: 29,615

Sunday, October 19

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Vargas 87, 90+2)
Liverpool 3 (Dunne og 67, Coutinho 90, Caulker og 90+5) Att: 18,069

Stoke 2 (Adam pen 43, Walters 76)
Swansea 1 (Bony pen 34) Att: 27,017

Monday, October 20

West Bromwich 2 (Sessegnon 8, Berahino 66)
Manchester United 2 (Fellaini 48, Blind 87) Att: 25,794

ENGLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	8	7	1	0	23	8	22
Man City	8	5	2	1	18	8	17
Southampton	8	5	1	2	19	5	16
West Ham	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
Liverpool	8	4	1	3	13	12	13
Man United	8	3	3	2	15	12	12
Arsenal	8	2	5	1	13	11	11
Swansea	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Tottenham	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
Stoke	8	3	2	3	8	9	11
Hull	8	2	4	2	13	13	10
Aston Villa	8	3	1	4	4	12	10
Everton	8	2	3	3	16	16	9
West Brom	8	2	3	3	10	11	9
Leicester	8	2	3	3	11	13	9
Crystal Palace	8	2	2	4	11	14	8
Sunderland	8	1	5	2	8	15	8
Newcastle	8	1	4	3	8	14	7
Burnley	8	0	4	4	4	13	4
QPR	8	1	1	6	6	18	4

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

9 Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)
Diego Costa (Chelsea)
6 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich)
Graziano Pelle (Southampton)
5 Diafra Sakho (West Ham)
Leonardo Ulloa (Leicester)

FRANCE

Saturday, September 27

Lille 1 (Origi 39)
Bastia 0 Att: 33,558

Lorient 0
Evian TG 2 (Kone 2, Barbosa 79) Att: 11,058

Metz 3 (Falcon 51, 90+2, Kashi 71)
Reims 0 Att: 18,273

Monaco 0
Nice 1 (Carlos Eduardo 7) Att: 8,941

Montpellier 2 (Camara 49, Montano 88)
Guingamp 1 (Beauvue 83) Att: 10,282

Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 8)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Bahebeck 33) Att: 20,762

Sunday, September 28

Bordeaux 2 (Khazri 73, Toure 90+3)
Rennes 1 (Habibou 80) Att: 18,668

Lens 0
Caen 0 Att: 8,525

Marseille 2 (Imbula 7, Payet 28)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Brison 53) Att: 55,367

Nantes 1 (Veretout pen 73)
Lyon 1 (Kone 51) Att: 26,077

Friday, October 3

Reims 1 (Fortes 32)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 14,546

Saturday, October 4

Bastia 0
Lorient 2 (Peybernes og 48, Sunu 62) Att: 11,542

Caen 1 (Musavu-King 84)
Marseille 2 (Romao 74, Gignac 90+3) Att: 20,501

Evian TG 3 (Doukoure og 62, Wass pen 75, Bruno 81)
Metz 0 Att: 10,937

Nice 1 (Palun 90+3)
Montpellier 1 (Hilton 72) Att: 19,634

Rennes 2 (Ntep 54, 84)
Lens 0 Att: 18,907

Sunday, October 5

Guingamp 0
Nantes 1 (Nkoudou 33) Att: 14,744

Lyon 3 (Lacazette 39, 45, 84)
Lille 0 Att: 34,349

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Lucas Moura 71)
Monaco 1 (Martial 90+2) Att: 45,308

Saint-Etienne 0
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 22) Att: 27,581

Friday, October 17

Lens 1 (Coulibaly 10)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cabaye 28, Maxwell 34, Cavani pen 55) Att: 70,785
Played in Paris (Stade de France)

Saturday, October 18

Lille 1 (Mavuba 79)
Guingamp 2 (Beauvue 45+1, Schwartz 57) Att: 33,926

Lorient 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Lemoine 87) Att: 14,069

Metz 0
Rennes 0 Att: 18,074

Monaco 2 (Joao Moutinho pen 2, Ferreira Carrasco 71)
Evian TG 0 Att: 5,497

Nantes 1 (Audel 13)
Reims 1 (Diego 58) Att: 22,908

GREECE

Ebola fear over player

Second-tier side Lamia banned their Sierra Leone midfielder from playing or training after he returned from international duty due to fears over the Ebola virus.

The 26-year-old played in an African Nations Cup qualifier and was told the club had advice from the health ministry.

Winning coach...Sigmundsson

ICELAND

Champions unbeaten

Stjarnan were crowned Icelandic champions for the first time – and became only the second side to go through an Icelandic top-flight campaign unbeaten – in a dramatic finale.

Needing to win away to league leaders FH of Hafnarfjordur on the last day of the season, they found themselves drawing 1-1 and down to 10 men with 31 minutes to play after skipper Veigar Pall Gunnarsson was sent off. However, Olafur Karl Finsen scored his second goal of the game from the penalty spot in the third minute of injury time to secure the title for the visitors.

Having lost in this season's Europa League play-offs to Internazionale, Stjarnan coach Runar Pall Sigmundsson is now looking ahead to next summer's Champions League qualifiers, declaring: "Almost all of our players will stay on so we expect to carry on."

FH, cup winners KR and Vikingur will play in the Europa League qualifying tournament. Leiknir and IA are promoted from the second tier and will replace Fram and Thor next season.

Nice 0
Bastia 1 (Ayite 51) Att: 18,919

Sunday, October 19
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate pen 22)
Caen 1 (Bazile 77) Att: 19,798

Lyon 5 (Gourcuff 36, 47, Fekir 38, Lacazette 82, Malbranque 88)
Montpellier 1 (Tiene 54) Att: 35,688

Marseille 2 (N'Koulou 20, Gignac 35)
Toulouse 0 Att: 61,846

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	10	8	1	1	25	8	25
PSG	10	4	6	0	18	7	18
Bordeaux	10	5	3	2	16	10	18
Lyon	10	5	2	3	20	9	17
Saint-Etienne	10	5	2	3	10	10	17
Nantes	10	4	4	2	8	7	16
Metz	10	4	3	3	10	9	15
Lille	10	4	3	3	8	7	15
Toulouse	10	4	2	4	13	13	14
Monaco	10	4	2	4	10	11	14
Montpellier	10	4	2	4	9	10	14
Nice	10	4	2	4	9	13	14
Rennes	10	3	3	4	11	13	12
Reims	10	3	2	5	10	20	11
Lorient	10	3	1	6	8	12	10
Bastia	10	2	4	4	8	13	10
Evian TG	10	3	1	6	11	18	10
Caen	10	2	3	5	10	11	9
Guingamp	10	3	0	7	6	14	9
Lens	10	2	2	6	8	13	8

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
10 Andre-Pierre Gignac (Marseille)
8 Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)
6 Wissam Ben Yedder (Toulouse)
5 Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Paris Saint-Germain)
Paul-Georges Ntep (Rennes)

GERMANY

Friday, September 26
Mainz 0
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 28,729

Saturday, September 27
Cologne 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Gotze 19, Halfar og 66) Att: 50,000

Freiburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 23,500

Paderborn 1 (Wemmer 70)
Monchengladbach 2 (Herrmann 8, Raffael 14) Att: 15,000

Schalke 2 (Matip 10, Choupo-Moting 23)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 26) Att: 61,153

Stuttgart 1 (Schwaab 69)
Hanover 0 Att: 40,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Rodriguez 15, Olic 57)
Werder Bremen 1 (Busch 37) Att: 29,117

Sunday, September 28
Augsburg 1 (Verhaegh pen 27)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 28,532

Hamburg 1 (N Muller 58)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Seferovic 44, Piazon 90) Att: 47,643

Friday, October 3
Hertha Berlin 3 (Kalou pen 22, 64, Beerens 74)
Stuttgart 2 (Leitner 5, Wagner og 83) Att: 46,312

Saturday, October 4
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bender 42, Bellarabi 90)
Paderborn 2 (Koc 20, Stoppelkamp 87) Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 4 (Lewandowski 6, 38, Robben 13, 79)
Hanover 0 Att: 71,000

Borussia Dortmund 0
Hamburg 1 (Lasogga 35) Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Meier 44, 54, Wimmer og 79)
Cologne 2 (Risse 15, Hector 65) Att: 51,500

Hoffenheim 2 (Elyounoussi 13, Szalai 29)
Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 83) Att: 30,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Di Santo 31)
Freiburg 1 (Darida pen 8) Att: 40,029

Sunday, October 5
Monchengladbach 1 (Kruse 15)
Mainz 1 (Hofmann pen 31) Att: 50,383

Wolfsburg 1 (Naldo 58)
Augsburg 0 Att: 25,734

Saturday, October 18
Bayern Munich 6 (Lahm 20, 79, Xabi Alonso 27, Muller pen 43, Gotze 45, 86)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 71,000

Cologne 2 (Vogt 40, Zoller 74)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Immobile 48) Att: 50,000

Freiburg 1 (Kerk 90+1)
Wolfsburg 2 (Caligiuri 8, 66) Att: 23,500

Hanover 0
Monchengladbach 3 (Kruse 14, 90, Xhaka 49) Att: 49,000

Mainz 2 (Hofmann 20, Jairo 23)
Augsburg 1 (Werner 78) Att: 27,687

Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 19, Draxler 65)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 3 (Werner 57, Klein 67, Harnik 76)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Son 4, 9, Bellarabi 41) Att: 40,900

Sunday, October 19
Hamburg 1 (Lasogga 34)
Hoffenheim 1 (Modeste 15) Att: 49,003

Paderborn 3 (Ducksch 66, Hunemeier 79, Kutschke 85)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier 57) Att: 15,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	8	6	2	0	21	2	20
M'gladbach	8	4	4	0	12	4	16
Hoffenheim	8	3	5	0	12	7	14
Mainz	8	3	5	0	12	7	14
Wolfsburg	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Leverkusen	8	3	4	1	16	14	13
Paderborn	8	3	3	2	13	11	12
Frankfurt	8	3	3	2	13	13	12
Schalke	8	3	2	3	13	12	11
Hanover	8	3	1	4	5	11	10
Cologne	8	2	3	3	6	7	9
Augsburg	8	3	0	5	9	11	9
Hertha	8	2	2	4	11	16	8
Dortmund	8	2	1	5	10	14	7
Stuttgart	8	1	3	4	9	15	6
Hamburg	8	1	3	4	3	9	6
Freiburg	8	0	5	3	8	12	5
Werder	8	0	4	4	10	22	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading goalscorers
6 Mario Gotze (Bayern Munich)
5 Max Kruse (Monchengladbach)
Alexander Meier (Eintracht Frankfurt)
Shinji Okazaki (Mainz)

GREECE

Sep 27: Platanias 0 Asteras 1; Panionios 1 Xanthi 1; Atromitos 1 Olympiakos 0.
Sep 28: Panathinaikos 1 Niki 0; Veria 2 Giannina 0; Levadiakos 2 Kerkyra 3; Ergotelis 1 Panetolikos 1; PAOK 4 OFI 0.
Sep 29: Kalloni 2 Panthrakikos 0.
Oct 18: Niki 1 Panthrakikos 0; Asteras 1 Panetolikos 1; Ergotelis 2 Olympiakos 3.
Oct 19: Panathinaikos 1 OFI 2; Veria 2 Levadiakos 1; Kalloni 1 Kerkyra 0; Platanias 1 Xanthi 0; PAOK 2 Atromitos 1.
Oct 20: Panionios 0 Giannina 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK	6	5	1	0	15	2	16
Veria	6	5	0	1	10	7	15
Olympiakos	6	4	1	1	13	5	13
Kalloni	6	4	1	1	7	2	13
Kerkyra	6	3	1	2	8	6	10
Panathinaikos	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Asteras	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Atromitos	6	3	1	2	4	3	10
OFI	6	3	0	3	4	9	9
Giannina	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Panionios	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Platanias	6	2	0	4	6	9	6
Xanthi	6	1	3	2	7	7	6
Panthrakikos	6	1	2	3	4	7	5
Ergotelis	6	1	1	4	8	12	4
Panetolikos	6	0	4	2	3	5	4
Niki	6	1	0	5	3	12	3
Levadiakos	6	0	2	4	6	11	2

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

HOLLAND

Sep 27: Dordrecht 2 Vitesse 6; NAC 2 Ajax 5; Zwolle 4 Heracles 2; Go Ahead Eagles 0 Feyenoord 4; Den Haag 2 AZ 3.
Sep 28: Excelsior 1 Cambuur 1; Groningen 1 Willem II 0; Twente 3 Utrecht 1; Heerenveen 1 PSV 0.
Oct 3: Vitesse 6 Den Haag 1.
Oct 4: Heracles 6 NAC 1; Cambuur 4 Dordrecht 1; Willem II 2 Heerenveen 1; Utrecht 2 Go Ahead Eagles 3.
Oct 5: PSV 3 Excelsior 0; AZ 2 Twente 2; Feyenoord 4 Groningen 0; Ajax 0 Zwolle 0.
Oct 18: Willem II 1 Vitesse 4; PSV 3 AZ 0; Feyenoord 2 Heracles 1; NAC 1 Den Haag 1; Twente 1 Ajax 1.
Oct 19: Heerenveen 2 Cambuur 2; Dordrecht 1 Utrecht 3; Go Ahead Eagles 3 Zwolle 2; Groningen 1 Excelsior 1.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	9	7	0	2	25	7	21
Ajax	9	5	2	2	17	11	17
Cambuur	9	4	4	1	17	13	16
Zwolle	9	5	1	3	16	12	16
Twente	9	3	6	0	16	10	15
Heerenveen	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
Vitesse	9	4	2	3	24	16	14
Feyenoord	9	4	2	3	14	7	14
AZ	9	4	1	4	13	15	13
Utrecht	9	4	1	4	12	14	13
Groningen	9	4	1	4	10	15	13
Willem II	9	4	0	5	12	14	12
Go Ahead	9	3	2	4	13	17	11
Excelsior	9	2	4	3	11	15	10
NAC	9	2	3	4	12	23	9
Den Haag	9	1	4	4	12	17	7
Dordrecht	9	1	2	6	9	21	5
Heracles	9	1	0	8	13	23	3

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stjarnan (C)	22	15	7	0	42	21	52
FH	22	15	6	1	46	17	51
KR	22	13	4	5	40	24	43
Vikingur R'vik	22	9	3	10	25	29	30
Valur	22	8	4	10	31	36	28
Fylkir	22	8	4	10	34	40	28
Breidablik	22	5	12	5	36	33	27
Keflavik	22	6	7	9	29	32	25
Fjolnir	22	5	8	9	33	36	23
IBV	22	5	7	10	28	38	22
Fram (R)	22	6	3	13	30	48	21
Thor (R)	22	3	3	16	24	44	12

ITALY

Saturday, September 27
Atalanta 0
Juventus 3 (Tevez 35, 59, Morata 83) Att: 22,074

Roma 2 (Florenzi 75, Destro 86)
Verona 0 Att: 40,432

Sunday, September 28
Cesena 1 (Succi 10)
Milan 1 (Rami 20) Att: 22,027

Chievo 1 (Meggiorini 50)
Empoli 1 (Pucciarelli 59) Att: 6,000

Genoa 0
Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 75) Att: 29,800

Internazionale 1 (Osvaldo 18)
Cagliari 4 (Sau 10, Ekdal 29, 34, 44) Att: 36,925

Sassuolo 0
Napoli 1 (Callejon 28) Att: 13,935

Torino 1 (Quagliarella 62)
Fiorentina 1 (Babacar 78) Att: 15,134

ITALY

Totti's new records

Francesco Totti's equalising goal in the 1-1 draw at Manchester City made Roma's captain the oldest scorer in Champions League history, at the age of 38 years and three days. He surpassed the previous record set by Manchester United's Ryan Giggs.

Totti's goal in Roma's 3-2 league loss to Juventus meant that he has scored in the last 21 consecutive Serie A campaigns.

Achievements...Totti

NORWAY

Double on for Molde

Molde won their third Norwegian league title in four seasons with four games to spare after coming from a goal down to beat Viking 2-1 in Stavanger.

The club now meet Odd in the Norwegian Cup Final on November 23 hoping to complete their first double.

RUSSIA

Zenit finally stopped

Having won their opening eight games, Zenit's record-breaking start to the league season finally came to an end with a goalless draw at home to Spartak Moscow.

Held...Zenit (in sky blue)

Monday, September 29
Palermo 0
Lazio 4 (Djordjevic 45, 75, 83, Parolo 90+3)
Att: 17,087

Udinese 4 (Di Natale 28, 45, Heurtaux 58, Thereau 84)
Parma 2 (Mauri 22, Cassano pen 45+4) Att: 8,652

Saturday, October 4
Milan 2 (Muntari 55, Honda 78)
Chievo 0 Att: 34,601

Verona 1 (Tachtsidis 89)
Cagliari 0 Att: 17,813

Sunday, October 5
Empoli 3 (Maccarone 4, Tonelli 33, Pucciarelli 63)
Palermo 0 Att: 7,504

Fiorentina 3 (Babacar 7, Cuadrado 19, Tomovic 76)
Internazionale 0 Att: 34,279

Juventus 3 (Tevez pen 27, pen 45+3, Bonucci 86)
Roma 2 (Totti pen 32, Iturbe 44) Att: 39,102

Lazio 3 (Mauri 9, Djordjevic 25, Candreva 35)
Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 26, pen 51) Att: 29,381

Napoli 2 (Insigne 55, Callejon 72)
Torino 1 (Quagliarella 14) Att: 30,586

Parma 1 (Coda 66)
Genoa 2 (Perotti 53, Matri 90+3) Att: 11,898

Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 35)
Atalanta 0 Att: 20,050

Udinese 1 (Bruno Fernandes 62)
Cesena 1 (Cascione pen 90+2) Att: 8,887

Saturday, October 18
Roma 3 (Destro 5, Ljajic 25, Totti pen 33)
Chievo 0 Att: 41,522

Sassuolo 1 (Zaza 13)
Juventus 1 (Pogba 19) Att: 21,584

Sunday, October 19
Atalanta 1 (Boakye 90)
Parma 0 Att: 14,944

Cagliari 2 (Avelar pen 59, Sau 77)
Sampdoria 2 (Gabbiadini 28, Obiang 39) Att: 9,426

Fiorentina 0
Lazio 2 (Djordjevic 35, Lulic 90+2) Att: 30,967

Internazionale 2 (Guarin 82, Hernanes 90+1)
Napoli 2 (Callejon 79, 90) Att: 40,383

Palermo 2 (Dybala 33, Gonzalez 90+1)
Cesena 1 (Rodriguez pen 61) Att: 14,780

Torino 1 (Quagliarella 62)
Udinese 0 Att: 13,434

Verona 1 (Lopez 87)
Milan 3 (Rafael Marques og 21, Honda 27, 56)
Att: 27,125

Monday, October 20
Genoa 1 (Bertolacci 14)
Empoli 1 (Tonelli 77) Att: 17,843

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	7	6	1	0	14	3	19
Roma	7	6	0	1	14	4	18
Sampdoria	7	4	3	0	9	4	15
Milan	7	4	2	1	16	10	14
Udinese	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
Lazio	7	4	0	3	13	7	12
Napoli	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Verona	7	3	2	2	7	8	11
Internazionale	7	2	3	2	13	10	9
Genoa	7	2	3	2	7	7	9
Fiorentina	7	2	3	2	5	5	9
Torino	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Empoli	7	1	4	2	9	9	7
Atalanta	7	2	1	4	3	8	7
Cesena	7	1	3	3	6	12	6
Palermo	7	1	3	3	8	15	6
Cagliari	7	1	2	4	9	11	5
Chievo	7	1	1	5	5	12	4
Sassuolo	7	0	4	3	4	13	4
Parma	7	1	0	6	11	17	3

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
6 Jose Callejon (Napoli)
Keisuke Honda (Milan)
Carlos Tevez (Juventus)
5 Filip Djordjevic (Lazio)

NORWAY

Sep 26: Sandnes Ulf 2 Valerenga 1.
Sep 27: Molde 2 Bodo/Glimt 1; Sogndal 4 Haugesund 1; Stromsgodset 2 Viking 1.
Sep 28: Stabaek 2 Lillestrom 0; Odd 4 Brann 0; Start 3 Sarpsborg 1; Rosenborg 3 Aalesund 0.
Oct 3: Lillestrom 0 Rosenborg 2.
Oct 4: Aalesund 2 Odd 2; Viking 1 Molde 2.
Oct 5: Sarpsborg 0 Stromsgodset 0; Bodo/Glimt 1 Stabaek 1; Haugesund 2 Sandnes Ulf 0; Valerenga 2 Sogndal 1; Brann 1 Start 2.
Oct 17: Brann 1 Sarpsborg 2.
Oct 18: Start 1 Aalesund 2; Molde 1 Haugesund 2.
Oct 19: Stromsgodset 2 Lillestrom 1; Odd 4 Bodo/Glimt 3; Stabaek 1 Viking 1; Sandnes Ulf 1 Sogndal 0; Rosenborg 3 Valerenga 2.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde (C)	27	20	5	2	59	22	65
Odd	27	16	7	4	50	28	55
Rosenborg	27	15	6	6	56	41	51
Stromsgodset	27	14	5	8	43	35	47
Lillestrom	27	11	7	9	39	31	40
Valerenga	27	10	9	8	56	47	39
Sarpsborg	27	9	9	9	37	44	36
Stabaek	27	10	5	12	41	50	35
Start	27	10	4	13	43	52	34
Viking	27	7	12	8	38	37	33
Aalesund	27	8	8	11	32	36	32
Haugesund	27	8	6	13	37	44	30
Bodo/Glimt	27	8	5	14	40	53	29
Sogndal	27	6	6	15	30	44	24
Brann	27	6	5	16	35	49	23
Sandnes Ulf	27	4	9	14	22	45	21

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

POLAND

Regular season
Sep 26: Korona 1 Piast 0; Slask 2 Gornik Leczna 1.
Sep 27: Zawisza 1 Ruch 1; Belchatow 1 Pogon 0; Legia 2 Lech 2.
Sep 28: Gornik Zabrze 2 Lechia 2; Cracovia 1 Wisla 0.
Sep 29: Jagiellonia 4 Podbeskidzie 2.
Oct 3: Podbeskidzie 2 Slask 2; Wisla 0 Jagiellonia 2.
Oct 4: Gornik Leczna 1 Korona 0; Lechia 1 Cracovia 0; Ruch 1 Gornik Zabrze 2.
Oct 5: Piast 3 Legia 1; Pogon 3 Zawisza 0; Lech 5 Belchatow 0.
Oct 17: Cracovia 1 Ruch 0; Legia 1 Lechia 0.
Oct 18: Slask 3 Piast 0; Podbeskidzie 1 Gornik Leczna 0; Jagiellonia 5 Pogon 0.
Oct 19: Korona 2 Lech 2; Gornik Zabrze 0 Wisla 5.
Oct 20: Zawisza 2 Belchatow 1.

POLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia	12	7	2	3	26	13	23
Jagiellonia	12	7	2	3	23	15	23
Slask	12	7	2	3	21	15	23
Wisla	12	6	3	3	23	15	21
Gornik Zabrze	12	6	3	3	20	14	21
Belchatow	12	5	4	3	11	11	19
Lech	12	4	6	2	26	14	18
Podbeskidzie	12	5	2	5	19	19	17
Lechia	12	4	4	4	17	16	16
Pogon	12	4	4	4	17	20	16
Gornik Leczna	12	4	3	5	16	19	15
Piast	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
Cracovia	12	4	2	6	12	18	14
Ruch	12	1	5	6	10	18	8
Korona	12	2	2	8	8	21	8
Zawisza	12	2	1	9	14	32	7

30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down)

PORTUGAL

Sep 26: Sporting 1 Porto 1.
Sep 27: Estoril 2 Benfica 3; Braga 3 Rio Ave 0.
Sep 28: Arouca 0 Academica 1; Maritimo 4 Guimaraes 0; Boavista 3 Gil Vicente 2; Moreirense 0 Penafiel 0; Setubal 2 Nacional 0.
Sep 29: Pacos de Ferreira 2 Belenenses 0.
Oct 3: Guimaraes 3 Boavista 0.
Oct 4: Penafiel 0 Sporting 4.
Oct 5: Academica 0 Moreirense 0; Pacos de Ferreira 3 Maritimo 2; Gil Vicente 1 Estoril 1; Benfica 4 Arouca 0; Porto 2 Braga 1; Nacional 0 Rio Ave 0; Belenenses 1 Setubal 1.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	7	6	1	0	19	4	19
Porto	7	4	3	0	10	3	15
Guimaraes	7	4	2	1	14	7	14
Sporting	7	3	4	0	13	4	13
Maritimo	7	4	0	3	12	8	12
Rio Ave	7	3	2	2	13	7	11
Braga	7	3	2	2	10	5	11
Pacos Ferreira	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Belenenses	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Setubal	7	2	2	3	6	11	8
Academica	7	1	4	2	6	7	7
Moreirense	7	1	4	2	3	7	7
Arouca	7	2	1	4	4	10	7
Boavista	7	2	1	4	4	13	7
Estoril	7	1	3	3	10	15	6
Nacional	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
Penafiel	7	1	1	5	3	13	4
Gil Vicente	7	0	2	5	6	16	2

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
6 Talisca (Benfica)
5 Moussa Maazou (Maritimo)
Jackson Martinez (Porto)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sep 26: Cork 2 Sligo 1; Bohemians 2 Limerick 0; Derry 1 Athlone 1; Drogheda 1 Bray 1; St Patrick's 1 Shamrock 1; UCD 0 Dundalk 2.
Sep 30: Bray 1 Derry 1; St Patrick's 3 Bohemians 1; Shamrock 3 UCD 0.
Oct 3: Cork 2 Drogheda 1; Limerick 4 Athlone 2.
Oct 4: Sligo 4 UCD 0.
Oct 10: Athlone 0 Dundalk 3; Bohemians 2 Sligo 2; Derry 1 Limerick 2; Drogheda 2 St Patrick's 3; UCD 0 Cork 4; Shamrock 1 Bray 0.
Oct 13: Dundalk 0 Shamrock 0.
Oct 17: Bray 1 Dundalk 1; Cork 1 Bohemians 0; Derry 0 UCD 1; Drogheda 0 Shamrock 2; Limerick 1 Sligo 0; St Patrick's 0 Athlone 2.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cork	32	22	6	4	51	23	72
Dundalk	32	21	8	3	71	24	71
St Patrick's	32	18	8	6	62	36	62
Shamrock	32	17	8	7	42	26	59
Sligo	32	12	7	13	43	32	43
Limerick	32	12	5	15	37	44	41
Derry	32	9	11	12	41	39	38
Bohemians	32	8	13	11	40	42	37
Drogheda	32	10	6	16	40	62	36
Bray	32	5	10	17	27	60	25
UCD	32	5	7	20	26	71	22
Athlone	32	4	9	19	34	55	21

33-round season (11x3); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

ROMANIA

Sep 26: CSM Studentesc 1 Concordia 2.
Sep 27: Gaz Metan 2 Ceahlaul 2; Botosani 0 Brasov 0; Rapid 0 Dinamo 3.
Sep 28: CS Universitatea 1 Targu Mures 0; Viitorul 1 Petrolul 3; Steaua 0 Astra 0.
Sep 29: Pandurii 4 Otelul 0; CFR 1 Univ'tatea Cluj 0.
Oct 3: Brasov 2 CSM St'tesc 0; Concordia 0 Rapid 0.
Oct 4: Ceahlaul 0 Botosani 1; Universitatea Cluj 2 Pandurii 0; Petrolul 1 Gaz Metan 0.
Oct 5: Otelul 0 Steaua 3; Astra 0 Viitorul 1; Dinamo 1 CS Universitatea 1.
Oct 6: Targu Mures 2 CFR 0.
Oct 17: CSM Studentesc 2 Botosani 2; Rapid 0 Brasov 1.
Oct 18: Viitorul 3 Otelul 0; Pandurii 1 Targu Mures 1; CFR 2 Dinamo 1.
Oct 19: CS Universitatea 1 Concordia 1; Gaz Metan 1 Astra 1; Steaua 4 Universitatea Cluj 1.
Oct 20: Petrolul 2 Ceahlaul 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	11	9	1	1	27	7	28
CFR	11	8	1	2	20	7	25
Petrolul	11	7	2	2	22	9	23
Astra	11	6	2	3	20	9	20
Dinamo	11	5	4	2	19	11	19
Targu Mures	11	5	4	2	16	9	19
Botosani	11	5	3	3	14	16	18
Brasov	11	4	4	3	14	14	16
Gaz Metan	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
CS Univ'tatea	11	3	4	4	10	16	13
Viitorul	11	3	3	5	12	14	12
Ceahlaul	11	3	3	5	10	18	12
Univ Cluj	11	3	2	6	11	14	11
Pandurii	11	2	5	4	11	15	11
Concordia	11	2	4	5	9	18	10
Rapid	11	2	3	6	6	15	9
CSM Stud'tesc	11	0	5	6	7	18	5
Otelul	11	1	2	8	4	20	5

34-round season (17x2); bottom 6 will be relegated

PARAGUAY

Promoted duo

Deportivo Santani clinched promotion to the Primera after winning 2-1 away to Sport Colombia with goals from Arnaldo Zarate and Wilson Leiva.

Sportivo San Lorenzo will also return to the Paraguayan top flight after 11 seasons in the lower leagues.

USA

Fans flock to New York

New York City, who will join MLS next year alongside fellow newcomers Orlando City, have sold more than 10,000 season tickets for their inaugural campaign at the Yankee Stadium.

The stadium – which can hold 49,000 – will have a 33,444 capacity for MLS games.

Impressive...season tickets have sold well for Yankee Stadium

CHINA

Too late for Harbin

Harbin Yiteng were relegated from the Super League with two games to go following a 1-1 draw with Shanghai East Asia as Liaoning Whowin beat Changchun Yatai 3-1.

Xin Bu earned Harbin a point, but Dai Lin Qiu Ka's double for Liaoning ensured it was in vain.

RUSSIA

Sep 27: Ural 3 CSKA 4; Mordovia 0 Ufa 2; Zenit 0 Spartak 0.
Sep 28: Dynamo 2 Kuban 2; Lokomotiv 3 Amkar 1; Krasnodar 3 Arsenal 0; Terek 2 Rostov 1.
Sep 29: Rubin 2 Torpedo 1.
Oct 18: CSKA 6 Kuban 0; Krasnodar 2 Zenit 2; Lokomotiv 2 Terek 1.
Oct 19: Ural 2 Spartak 0; Arsenal 1 Rostov 1.
Oct 20: Ufa 1 Torpedo 1; Rubin 5 Mordovia 0.

RUSSIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	10	8	2	0	28	6	26
CSKA	10	8	0	2	26	8	24
Dynamo	9	6	1	2	23	12	19
Kuban	10	5	4	1	12	12	19
Krasnodar	10	5	3	2	17	8	18
Terek	10	5	3	2	14	6	18
Spartak	10	5	2	3	13	12	17
Rubin	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
Lokomotiv	10	4	3	3	12	9	15
Ufa	10	3	2	5	8	10	11
Mordovia	10	3	2	5	7	14	11
Ural	10	2	1	7	11	17	7
Amkar	9	2	1	6	7	15	7
Torpedo	10	1	2	7	9	26	5
Rostov	10	1	2	7	11	30	5
Arsenal	10	0	2	8	3	19	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

Leading goalscorers

7 Salomon Rondon (Zenit)
6 Seydou Doumbia (CSKA)
Artem Dzyuba (Spartak)
Hulk (Zenit)

SCOTLAND

Regular season

Sep 27: St Mirren 1 Celtic 2; Ross County 2 Dundee 1; Motherwell 0 Hamilton 4; Aberdeen 3 Inverness 2; Kilmarnock 3 Partick 0; Dundee United 2 St Johnstone 0.
Sep 30: Aberdeen 2 St Mirren 2.
Oct 3: Kilmarnock 2 Dundee United 0.
Oct 4: Dundee 2 Aberdeen 3; Partick 3 Motherwell 1; St Johnstone 1 St Mirren 2.
Oct 5: Inverness 1 Ross County 1; Celtic 0 Hamilton 1.
Oct 17: Hamilton 3 Aberdeen 0.
Oct 18: Ross County 0 Celtic 5; Motherwell 1 Dundee 3; St Mirren 0 Inverness 1; St Johnstone 1 Kilmarnock 2; Dundee United 1 Partick 0.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamilton	10	7	2	1	19	5	23
Dundee Utd	10	7	1	2	19	12	22
Inverness	10	6	2	2	14	8	20
Kilmarnock	10	6	2	2	14	8	20
Celtic	9	5	2	2	20	7	17
Aberdeen	10	5	1	4	16	15	16
Dundee	10	3	4	3	12	13	13
Partick	9	3	1	5	13	13	10
St Johnstone	10	3	0	7	7	14	9
St Mirren	10	2	1	7	8	16	7
Motherwell	10	2	1	7	6	18	7
Ross County	10	1	1	8	7	26	4

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down and the 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)

SPAIN

Friday, September 26

Elche 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 90) Att: 20,852

Saturday, September 27

Athletic Bilbao 0
Eibar 0 Att: 45,000

Atletico Madrid 4 (Koke 19, Saul 42, Raul Garcia pen 83, Jimenez 89)
Sevilla 0 Att: 52,000

Barcelona 6 (Neymar 26, 45, 66, Rakitic 43, Messi 62, 82)
Granada 0 Att: 72,596

Levante 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Leo Baptistao 12, 33)
Att: 18,000

Villarreal 0
Real Madrid 2 (Modric 32, Cristiano Ronaldo 40)
Att: 22,146

Sunday, September 28

Cordoba 0
Espanyol 0 Att: 24,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Almeria 1 (Edgar 90+2) Att: 18,000

Getafe 1 (Michel 25)
Malaga 0 Att: 5,500

Real Sociedad 1 (Canales 36)
Valencia 1 (Carles Gil 15) Att: 25,168

Friday, October 3

Getafe 1 (Diawara 88)
Cordoba 1 (Ekeng 78) Att: 9,000

Saturday, October 4

Almeria 2 (Verza pen 37, Hemed 84)
Elche 2 (Victor Rodriguez 6, Jonathas 56) Att: 9,000

Eibar 3 (Pedro Lopez og 46, Saul 70, Piovaccari 90+3)
Levante 3 (Morales 2, Camarasa 43, Victor 79)
Att: 4,265

Malaga 2 (Santa Cruz 60, Antunes pen 80)
Granada 1 (El Arabi 1) Att: 19,000

Rayo Vallecano 0
Barcelona 2 (Messi 35, Neymar 36) Att: 14,070

Valencia 3 (Miranda og 6, Andre Gomes 7, Otamendi 13)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 29) Att: 44,000

Sunday, October 5

Celta Vigo 1 (Larrivey 44)
Villarreal 3 (Moi Gomez 32, 33, Mario 90+1)
Att: 23,000

Espanyol 2 (Lucas Vazquez 7, Stuani 90+2)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 18,326

Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo 2, 55, 88, Benzema 41, 69)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 77,987

Sevilla 4 (Mbia 24, 57, Bacca 39, Vitolo 63)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Medunjanin 31)
Att: 31,000

Friday, October 17

Granada 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Manucho 90+3) Att: 19,000

Saturday, October 18

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz pen 6)
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 73) Att: 35,600

Barcelona 3 (Xavi 60, Neymar 72, Messi 74)
Eibar 0 Att: 75,546

Cordoba 1 (Ghilas 90+4)
Malaga 2 (Samuel 22, Amrabat pen 31) Att: 17,000

Levante 0
Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 13, 61, Hernandez 38, Rodriguez 66, Isco 82) Att: 23,506

Sunday, October 19

Atletico Madrid 2 (Tiago 43, Mario Suarez 71)
Espanyol 0 Att: 54,069

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Gaya og 36, Lucas Perez 43, Toche 79)
Valencia 0 Att: 21,908

Elche 0
Sevilla 2 (Bacca 59, Gameiro 73) Att: 26,059

Villarreal 2 (Uche 23, 59)
Almeria 0 Att: 19,000

Monday, October 20

Real Sociedad 1 (Hervias 82)
Getafe 2 (Yoda 90, 90+3) Att: 19,098

SPAIN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	8	7	1	0	22	0	22
Sevilla	8	6	1	1	15	8	19
Real Madrid	8	6	0	2	30	9	18
Valencia	8	5	2	1	17	7	17
Atletico	8	5	2	1	14	7	17
Villarreal	8	4	2	2	12	7	14
Celta	8	3	4	1	13	11	13
Malaga	8	3	3	2	7	8	12
Rayo	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Getafe	8	3	1	4	6	12	10
Espanyol	8	2	3	3	9	10	9
Eibar	8	2	3	3	8	10	9
Almeria	8	2	3	3	7	9	9
Granada	8	2	2	4	5	12	8
Deportivo	8	2	1	5	11	19	7
Real Sociedad	8	1	2	5	9	13	5
Athletic	8	1	2	5	5	12	5
Elche	8	1	2	5	7	18	5
Levante	8	1	2	5	4	20	5
Cordoba	8	0	4	4	5	13	4

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

15 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
8 Neymar (Barcelona)
7 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
6 Carlos Bacca (Sevilla)

SWEDEN

Sep 27: Malmo 4 Mjallby 1.
Sep 28: Kalmar 2 Hacken 3; Elfsborg 1 AIK 1; Falkenberg 4 Norrkoping 2.
Sep 29: Atvidaberg 1 Helsingborg 2; Brommapojkarna 0 Halmstad 3; Gefle 1 Orebro 2; Gothenburg 2 Djurgarden 1.
Oct 3: Helsingborg 4 Kalmar 1.
Oct 4: Mjallby 0 Brommapojkarna 1; Djurgarden 1 Gefle 2.
Oct 5: Halmstad 1 Atvidaberg 3; Orebro 5 Elfsborg 1; Norrkoping 3 Gothenburg 0; Hacken 1 Falkenberg 2; AIK 2 Malmo 3.
Oct 18: Malmo 1 Elfsborg 2; Kalmar 1 Halmstad 3; Atvidaberg 2 Mjallby 1.
Oct 19: Gothenburg 3 Hacken 2; Gefle 1 Norrkoping 2; Brommapojkarna 0 AIK 4.
Oct 20: Falkenberg 2 Helsingborg 0; Djurgarden 0 Orebro 3.

SWEDEN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo (C)	28	17	8	3	56	29	59
Gothenburg	28	13	11	4	50	33	50
Elfsborg	28	14	7	7	39	30	49
AIK	28	14	6	8	54	40	48
Hacken	28	12	7	9	53	39	43
Orebro	28	12	7	9	49	40	43
Atvidaberg	28	11	7	10	36	41	40
Djurgarden	28	10	9	9	45	32	39
Helsingborg	28	10	9	9	40	39	39
Halmstad	28	10	6	12	39	45	36
Kalmar	28	9	8	11	33	44	35
Falkenberg	28	9	5	14	36	44	32
Norrkoping	28	8	8	12	36	49	32
Gefle	28	7	8	13	31	38	29
Mjallby	28	8	4	16	28	44	28
Brom'karna (R)	28	2	6	20	28	66	12

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

Sep 27: Grasshopper 2 Aarau 1; Basle 1 Thun 1.
Sep 28: Young Boys 2 Zurich 1; Vaduz 1 Sion 0; Lucerne 1 St Gallen 2.
Oct 4: Thun 3 Grasshopper 2; St Gallen 2 Basle 1.
Oct 5: Zurich 3 Vaduz 0; Sion 3 Lucerne 1; Aarau 3 Young Boys 2.
Oct 18: Aarau 0 St Gallen 3; Young Boys 0 Basle 1.
Oct 19: Sion 0 Thun 0; Lucerne 0 Vaduz 0; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 3.

SWITZERLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zurich	12	8	2	2	24	12	26
Basle	12	8	1	3	25	16	25
St Gallen	12	6	3	3	21	15	21
Thun	12	6	3	3	21	17	21
Young Boys	12	5	3	4	20	16	18
Aarau	12	3	5	4	14	17	14
Sion	12	3	3	6	10	14	12
Grasshopper	12	3	2	7	13	22	11
Vaduz	12	2	4	6	8	18	10
Lucerne	12	0	6	6	12	21	6

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

TURKEY

Sep 26: Galatasaray 2 Sivasspor 1.
Sep 27: Trabzonspor 1 Kasimpasa 1; Besiktas 1 Eskisehirspor 1.
Sep 28: Rizespor 0 Bursaspor 1; Konyaspor 1 Kayseri Erciyesspor 1; Genclerbirligi 3 Balikesirspor 1; Akhisar 2 Fenerbahce 0.
Sep 29: Karabukspor 0 Mersin 2; Gaziantepspor 0 Basaksehir 0.
Oct 3: Mersin 2 Bursaspor 1.
Oct 4: Kasimpasa 4 Gaziantepspor 2; Sivasspor 1 Genclerbirligi 0; Kayseri Erciyesspor 1 Galatasaray 2; Fenerbahce 2 Konyaspor 1.
Oct 5: Basaksehir 4 Akhisar 0; Karabukspor 3 Trabzonspor 0; Eskisehirspor 1 Rizespor 2; Balikesirspor 0 Besiktas 1.
Oct 18: Konyaspor 0 Basaksehir 0; Gaziantepspor 1 Karabukspor 0; Galatasaray 2 Fenerbahce 1.

INDIA

Scorer dies after goal

Peter Biaksangzuala, a midfielder with Bethlehem Vengthlang, died of injuries sustained celebrating a goal.

After scoring against Chanmari West the 23-year-old landed awkwardly while performing somersaults and damaged his spinal chord. He died in hospital five days later.

Tragedy...Biaksangzuala lands badly after his goal celebration

KUWAIT

Third time lucky

Making their third appearance in the Final in five years, Al Qadsia won the AFC Cup for the first time, beating Iraq's Arbil 4-2 on penalties.

Swiss striker Danijel Subotic scored the winning spot-kick to keep the trophy in the Gulf state just 12 months after Qadsia lost

Cup success...Al Qadsia

Oct 19: Bursaspor 2 Eskisehirspor 2; Trabzonspor 3 Mersin 1; Besiktas 3 Sivasspor 2; Akhisar 2 Kasimpasa 0.
Oct 20: Genclerbirligi 0 Kayseri Erciyesspor 0; Rizespor 2 Balikesirspor 2.

TURKEY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	6	4	2	0	8	4	14
Galatasaray	6	4	1	1	8	5	13
Akhisar	6	4	1	1	10	8	13
Mersin	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Fenerbahce	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Kasimpasa	6	2	3	1	10	9	9
Basaksehir	6	1	5	0	6	2	8
Genclerbirligi	6	2	2	2	7	5	8
Gaziantepspor	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Trabzonspor	6	1	4	1	5	6	7
Bursaspor	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Konyaspor	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
Eskisehirspor	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
Rizespor	6	1	3	2	6	8	6
Sivasspor	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Karabukspor	6	1	1	4	6	8	4
K Erciyesspor	6	0	4	2	5	7	4
Balikesirspor	6	1	1	4	6	10	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Oct 3: Volyn 2 Vorskla 2.
Oct 4: Olimpik 1 Karpaty 0; Zorya 2 Hoverla 1; Chornomorets 2 Metalurh Donetsk 2.
Oct 5: Illichivets 0 Dnipro 1; Metalist 2 Metalurh Zaporizhya 1; Dynamo 1 Shakhtar 0.
Oct 17: Shakhtar 6 Volyn 2.
Oct 18: Hoverla 0 Dynamo 4; Vorskla 0 Metalist 0; Metalurh Zaporizhya 2 Olimpik 2.
Oct 19: Dnipro 2 Chornomorets 1; Metalurh Donetsk 0 Zorya 0; Karpaty 1 Illichivets 0.

UKRAINE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	9	8	1	0	22	4	25
Dynamo	9	7	2	0	20	5	23
Shakhtar	9	7	0	2	21	5	21
Olimpik	9	4	2	3	8	18	14
Vorskla	9	3	4	2	11	7	13
Zorya	9	3	3	3	8	8	12
Metalist	9	3	3	3	12	14	12
Chornomorets	9	2	4	3	11	11	10
Metalurh D	9	2	4	3	11	11	10
Volyn	9	3	1	5	12	18	10
Metalurh Z	9	2	2	5	8	16	8
Karpaty[1]	9	2	2	5	9	15	5
Hoverla	9	0	4	5	6	14	4
Illichivets	9	0	2	7	7	20	2

26-round season (13x2); bottom team will be relegated
[1]3pts deducted for failing to comply with contract obligations

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Transitional tournament

Sep 26: Estudiantes 3 Velez 2.
Sep 27: Rafaela 0 Olimpo 0; San Lorenzo 0 Gimnasia LP 2; Independiente 2 Rosario 0.
Sep 28: Tigre 2 Defensa y Justicia 1; Belgrano 1 Racing 4; Boca 1 Quilmes 0; Lanus 1 River Plate 1.
Sep 29: Arsenal 3 Godoy Cruz 0; Newell's 0 Banfield 3.
Oct 1: San Lorenzo 2 Olimpo 0.
Oct 3: Gimnasia LP 2 Velez 0.
Oct 4: Banfield 2 Belgrano 2; San Lorenzo 0 Tigre 2; Defensa y Justicia 2 Arsenal 1.
Oct 5: Quilmes 1 Newell's 1; Racing 0 Rafaela 2; Olimpo 1 Estudiantes 2; River Plate 1 Boca 1.
Oct 6: Rosario 1 Lanus 2; Godoy Cruz 2 Independiente 2.
Oct 10: Tigre 1 Gimnasia LP 0; Lanus 3 Godoy Cruz 3.
Oct 11: Velez 4 Olimpo 1; Belgrano 1 Quilmes 1; Estudiantes 0 Racing 4.
Oct 12: Rafaela 2 Banfield 2; Independiente 1 Defensa y Justicia 1; Newell's 0 River Plate 1; Boca 2 Rosario 1.
Oct 13: Arsenal 0 San Lorenzo 0.
Oct 15: Godoy Cruz 4 Tigre 3.
Oct 17: Gimnasia LP 0 Olimpo 0; Quilmes 0 Rafaela 0.
Oct 18: Banfield 1 Estudiantes 1; San Lorenzo 1 Independiente 2; Defensa y Justicia 1 Lanus 2.
Oct 19: Rosario 2 Newell's 0; Racing 2 Velez 0; River Plate 3 Belgrano 0; Godoy Cruz 2 Boca 3.
Oct 20: Tigre 1 Arsenal 1.

ARGENTINA – TRANSITIONAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	12	8	4	0	26	6	28
Lanus	12	7	3	2	19	12	24
Independiente	12	7	2	3	21	18	23
Racing	12	7	1	4	21	15	22
Boca	12	6	2	4	15	15	20
Rafaela	12	5	4	3	14	12	19
Tigre	12	5	2	5	18	13	17
Velez	12	5	2	5	15	13	17
Estudiantes	12	5	2	5	15	16	17
Newell's	12	4	5	3	12	14	17
Rosario	12	5	1	6	17	18	16
Arsenal	12	4	3	5	12	15	15
Gimnasia LP	12	3	5	4	9	10	14
San Lorenzo	12	4	2	6	13	16	14
Banfield	12	3	4	5	14	15	13
Godoy Cruz	12	3	4	5	19	25	13
Def y Justicia	12	3	3	6	16	22	12
Belgrano	12	2	4	6	12	19	10
Quilmes	12	1	6	5	13	19	9
Olimpo	12	2	3	7	7	15	9

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation at the end of this tournament

BRAZIL

Sep 27: Sport 0 Cruzeiro 0; Chapecoense 1 Criciuma 1; Sao Paulo 1 Fluminense 3.
Sep 28: Botafogo 0 Gremio 2; Paranaense 1 Corinthians 0; Mineiro 2 Vitoria 0; Bahia 2 Flamengo 1; Santos 2 Goias 0; Internacional 4 Coritiba 2; Figueirense 3 Palmeiras 1.
Oct 2: Palmeiras 4 Chapecoense 2.
Oct 4: Flamengo 0 Santos 1; Fluminense 1 Bahia 1; Coritiba 1 Paranaense 0; Vitoria 2 Botafogo 1; Gremio 0 Sao Paulo 1; Corinthians 3 Sport 0; Cruzeiro 2 Internacional 1; Goias 1 Figueirense 0; Criciuma 3 Mineiro 1.
Oct 8: Botafogo 0 Palmeiras 1; Sao Paulo 1 Paranaense 0; Coritiba 1 Criciuma 0; Vitoria 2 Goias 2; Cruzeiro 0 Corinthians 1; Gremio 2 Sport 0; Figueirense 1 Flamengo 2.
Oct 9: Fluminense 0 Mineiro 0; Santos 1 Bahia 0; Chapecoense 5 Internacional 0.
Oct 11: Botafogo 1 Corinthians 0; Goias 3 Coritiba 0; Palmeiras 2 Gremio 1.
Oct 12: Flamengo 3 Cruzeiro 0; Mineiro 1 Sao Paulo 0; Bahia 0 Chapecoense 1; Internacional 2 Fluminense 1; Sport 1 Vitoria 2; Paranaense 3 Figueirense 0; Criciuma 3 Santos 0.
Oct 18: Fluminense 4 Criciuma 2; Sao Paulo 2 Bahia 1; Goias 0 Gremio 0; Mineiro 1 Chapecoense 0.
Oct 19: Palmeiras 1 Santos 3; Paranaense 2 Flamengo 1; Internacional 1 Corinthians 2; Figueirense 4 Coritiba 0; Botafogo 1 Sport 1; Vitoria 0 Cruzeiro 1.

BRAZIL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	29	18	5	6	52	30	59
Sao Paulo	29	15	7	7	47	35	52
Internacional	29	15	5	9	39	30	50
Mineiro	29	14	8	7	38	29	50
Corinthians	29	13	10	6	35	20	49
Gremio	29	13	8	8	24	17	47
Santos	29	13	6	10	36	27	45
Fluminense	29	12	9	8	46	30	45
Goias	29	10	8	11	29	28	38
Paranaense	29	10	7	12	33	36	37
Flamengo	29	10	7	12	29	35	37
Sport	29	10	7	12	23	36	37
Figueirense	29	10	5	14	29	40	35
Palmeiras	29	10	4	15	29	45	34
Chapecoense	29	9	7	13	29	32	34
Vitoria	29	8	7	14	30	40	31
Botafogo	29	8	6	15	28	35	30
Bahia	29	7	9	13	24	29	30
Criciuma	29	7	9	13	21	38	30
Coritiba	29	7	8	14	26	35	29

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

CONCACAF

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Sep 26: Veracruz 1 Tijuana 0; Queretaro 1 Toluca 1; Santos 1 America 4.
Sep 27: Monterrey 2 Atlas 1; Cruz Azul 1 Leon 0; Pachuca 2 Tigres 3; Leones Negros 1 Morelia 2.
Sep 28: Pumas 2 Chiapas 2; Guadalajara 0 Puebla 0.
Sep 30: Leon 1 Monterrey 3; Atlas 2 Queretaro 1; Tigres 1 Santos 1.
Oct 1: Puebla 1 Pumas 2; America 2 Veracruz 0; Morelia 0 Pachuca 1; Chiapas 1 Leones Negros 1; Tijuana 0 Cruz Azul 0.
Oct 2: Toluca 3 Guadalajara 1.
Oct 3: Queretaro 1 Leon 2.
Oct 4: Veracruz 0 Tigres 1; Cruz Azul 4 America 0; Monterrey 1 Tijuana 1; Santos 2 Morelia 2; Pachuca 2 Chiapas 0; Leones Negros 1 Pumas 0.
Oct 5: Toluca 1 Puebla 1; Guadalajara 0 Atlas 1.
Oct 17: Morelia 0 Veracruz 1; Tijuana 2 Queretaro 1.
Oct 18: Puebla 1 Leones Negros 1; America 2 Monterrey 0; Tigres 1 Cruz Azul 0; Leon 2 Guadalajara 1; Atlas 0 Toluca 2; Chiapas 2 Santos 0.
Oct 19: Pumas 1 Pachuca 1.

MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	13	9	2	2	23	11	29
Toluca	13	7	4	2	18	11	25
Atlas	13	7	3	3	17	13	24
Tigres	13	6	5	2	20	14	23
Monterrey	12	7	2	3	16	10	23
Pachuca	13	6	2	5	17	15	20
Chiapas	13	4	6	3	18	17	18
Santos	13	4	5	4	16	18	17
Tijuana	13	3	7	3	14	12	16
Cruz Azul	13	4	4	5	12	11	16
Pumas	13	4	4	5	17	17	16
Queretaro	13	4	3	6	17	17	15
Leon	13	5	0	8	20	22	15
Veracruz	13	3	5	5	7	11	14
Puebla	13	2	7	4	10	15	13
Leones Negros	13	2	5	6	7	14	11
Guadalajara	12	2	4	6	8	15	10
Morelia	13	1	4	8	12	26	7

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

PUERTO RICO

Championship Final

Aug 30: Yabuco Sual 2 Guayama 2 (aet, Yabuco Sual 8-7 on pens).

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Sep 26: Kansas City 2 New England 3.
Sep 27: Toronto 3 Portland 2; DC United 1 Philadelphia 0; Seattle 4 Chivas 2; Vancouver 2 Salt Lake 1; Columbus 2 Montreal 0; Colorado 1 San Jose 1.
Sep 28: Houston 2 Chicago 0; Los Angeles 4 New York Red Bulls 0.
Oct 2: Philadelphia 1 Chicago 1.
Oct 3: DC United 0 Kansas City 0.
Oct 4: New York Red Bulls 1 Houston 0; Vancouver 2 Dallas 0; New England 2 Columbus 1; Los Angeles 3 Toronto 0; San Jose 1 Portland 2.
Oct 5: Colorado 1 Seattle 4; Chicago 0 Montreal 0; Chivas 1 Salt Lake 0.
Oct 8: Toronto 0 Houston 1; Portland 3 San Jose 0.
Oct 10: Kansas City 2 Chicago 0; Seattle 0 Vancouver 1.
Oct 11: Montreal 2 New England 2; Philadelphia 2 Columbus 3; New York Red Bulls 3 Toronto 1; Salt Lake 2 San Jose 0; Chivas 2 Colorado 1.
Oct 12: Houston 1 DC United 3; Dallas 2 Los Angeles 1.
Oct 16: Houston 1 New England 2.
Oct 17: Portland 0 Salt Lake 0.
Oct 18: Toronto 1 Montreal 1; Colorado 0 Dallas 1; Philadelphia 2 Kansas City 1; DC United 2 Chicago 1; San Jose 0 Vancouver 0.
Oct 19: New York Red Bulls 1 Columbus 3; Los Angeles 2 Seattle 2.

USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONFERENCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DC United (Q)	33	17	7	9	51	36	58
N England (Q)	33	16	4	13	50	46	52
Kansas C (Q)	33	14	7	12	48	39	49
Columbus (Q)	33	13	10	10	50	41	49
New York (Q)	33	12	11	10	53	50	47
Philadelphia	33	10	12	11	50	49	42
Toronto	33	11	8	14	44	53	41
Houston	33	11	6	16	38	56	39
Chicago	33	5	18	10	39	50	33
Montreal	33	6	9	18	37	57	27

34-round regular season (7x3 & 2x2 in own conference, 9x1 in western conference)

USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONFERENCE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seattle (Q)	33	19	4	10	63	50	61
L Angeles (Q)	33	17	10	6	69	35	61
Dallas (Q)	33	16	6	11	55	43	54
Salt Lake (Q)	33	14	11	8	52	39	53
Vancouver	33	11	14	8	41	40	47
Portland	33	11	13	9	59	52	46
Colorado	33	8	8	17	43	61	32
Chivas	32	8	6	18	28	59	30
San Jose	33	6	12	15	35	49	30

34-round regular season (8x3 in own conference, 10x1 in eastern conference)

Top 5 in both conferences will enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

Leading goalscorers

25 Bradley Wright-Phillips (New York Red Bulls)
22 Dom Dwyer (Kansas City)
19 Robbie Keane (Los Angeles)
17 Obafemi Martins (Seattle)
Lee Nguyen (New England)

in the Final to compatriots Kuwait SC. The game was goalless after 120 minutes.

TURKMENISTAN

Last President's Cup

HTTU from Ashgabat claimed the last-ever AFC President's Cup with a 2-1 victory over Rimyongsu of North Korea in the Final.

Akmyrat Jumanazarov and Suleyman Muhadov – who was the competition's top marksman with 11 – scored the goals to make it a second successive triumph for Turkmenistan after Balkan won last year.

"I am so proud of my team," said HTTU coach Rowshen Meredov. "I call them my friends, my brothers; not my players."

As of next year, the league champions of Asia's "emerging countries" will participate in the qualifying rounds of the AFC Cup, rather than the President's Cup which, after 11 editions, has now been scrapped.

SAMOA

Into the group stage

Lupe Ole Soaga will compete in the OFC Champions League for the first time after claiming maximum points in a four-team qualifying tournament. They beat American Samoa champions Samoan Korean Baptist Church, Cooks Islands' Puaikura and Lotoha'apai United of Tonga.

Lupe Ole Soaga striker Silao Malo won the Golden Boot with five goals and also claimed the Golden Ball for most outstanding player of the tournament.

The competition group stage is in Fiji in April.

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs

Sep 20
ES Setif (Alg) 2 (Younes 55, Ziaya 89)
TP Mazembe (DRC) 1 (Arroussi og 52)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Alioum (Cam)

Sep 21
AS Vita (DRC) 2 (Mubele 37, Luvumbu 54)
CS Sfaxien (Tun) 1 (Maaloul 69)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** El Ahrach (Mor)

2nd legs

Sep 27
CS Sfaxien 1 (Derbali 26)
AS Vita 2 (Dayo 45+1, Sentamu 55)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Doue (IvC)
AS Vita 4-2 on agg

Sep 28
TP Mazembe 3 (Adjei 21, Coulibaly 38, Bolingi 53)
ES Setif 2 (Ziaya 9, Younes 75)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Grisha (Egy)
Agg 4-4; ES Setif on away goals

CONFEDERATION CUP

Semi-finals

1st legs - Sep 20/21; 2nd legs - Sep 27/28
Coton Sport (Cam) v Al Ahly (Egy) 0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)
Sewe Sport (IvC) v AC Leopards (Con)
1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0)

MALI

MALI – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Std Malien (C)	30	20	7	3	42	9	67
COB	30	18	8	4	46	19	62
Real Bamako	30	16	10	4	55	20	58
Duguwolofila	30	13	12	5	41	23	51
Djoliba	30	13	10	7	22	19	49
Bakaridjan	30	13	9	8	31	25	48
Onze Createurs	30	11	10	9	32	25	43
USFAS	30	11	9	10	30	26	42
AS Bamako	30	10	11	9	28	29	41
CSK	30	8	14	8	23	19	38
Police	30	9	11	10	27	32	38
ASOM	30	7	10	13	20	39	31
Nianan	30	7	7	16	16	33	28
ONS (R)	30	5	6	19	20	46	21
Debo (R)	30	4	7	19	21	51	19
Elwidj (R)	30	2	5	23	24	63	11

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs

Sep 16
Al Hilal (Sau) 3 (Al Shamrani 61, 65, Thiago Neves 71)
Al Ain (UAE) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 57,170. **Ref:** Toma (Jap)
Sent off: Eisa (Al Ain) 66

Sep 17
Seoul (SKo) 0
Western Sydney Wanderers (Aus) 0
Att: 12,901. **Ref:** Shukralla (Bhn)

2nd legs

Sep 30
Al Ain 2 (Lee Myung-joo 10, Kembo-Ekoko 78)
Al Hilal 1 (Al Shamrani 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,204. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
Al Hilal 4-2 on agg
Sent off: Gyan (Al Ain) 70

Oct 1
Western Sydney Wanderers 2 (Poljak 3, Cole 64)
Seoul 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,896. **Ref:** Abdou (Qat)
Western Sydney Wanderers 2-0 on agg

AFC CUP

Semi-finals

1st legs - Sep 16; 2nd legs - Sep 30
Al Qadsia (Kuw) v Persipura Jayapura (Ins)
4-2, 6-0 (agg 10-2)
Arbil (Irq) v Kitchee (HK) 1-1, 2-1 (agg 3-2)

Final

Oct 18 - Dubai, UAE (Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum)
Arbil 0
Al Qadsia 0
Aet; Al Qadsia 4-2 on pens
Att: 5,240. **Ref:** Kim Dong-jin (SKo)

AFGHANISTAN

Championship Final

Oct 3: Shaheen Asmayee 3 Oqaban Hindukush 2 (aet).

AUSTRALIA

Regular season

Oct 10: Melbourne Victory 4 Western Sydney 1.
Oct 11: Central Coast 1 Newcastle 0; Sydney 1 Melbourne City 1.
Oct 12: Wellington Phoenix 1 Perth 2; Brisbane 1 Adelaide 2.
Oct 17: Adelaide 1 Melbourne Victory 1.
Oct 18: Central Coast 1 Wellington Phoenix 2; Sydney 3 Western Sydney 2.
Oct 19: Melbourne City 1 Newcastle 1; Perth 3 Brisbane 2.

AUSTRALIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth	2	2	0	0	5	3	6
Melbourne V	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Sydney	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Adelaide	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Wellington P	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Central Coast	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Melbourne C	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Newcastle	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Brisbane	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
West Sydney	2	0	0	2	3	7	0

27-round regular season (9x3); top 6 will qualify for championship play-offs. No relegation from this league

BHUTAN

BHUTAN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Druk Utd (C)	10	7	1	2	33	14	22
Ugyen Acad'y	10	7	1	2	26	13	22
Thimphu City	10	7	0	3	33	15	21
Druk Pol	10	5	0	5	23	13	15
Druk Stars	10	2	1	7	18	31	7
B'tan Clearing	10	0	1	9	6	53	1

No relegation as this National League is the country's overall championship, drawing teams from other regional and local tournaments

JAPAN

Sep 27: Yokohama 0 Ventforet 0; Sanfrecce 1 Vissel 1; Tokyo 4 Kashiwa 0; Gamba 4 Sagan 1; Omiya 2 Shimizu 1; Tokushima 0 Kashima 5; Cerezo 1 Urawa 0; Kawasaki 1 Vegalta 1; Nagoya 0 Albirex 1.
Oct 5: Kashima 2 Gamba 3; Shimizu 3 Cerezo 0; Urawa 2 Tokushima 1; Vissel 1 Nagoya 3; Sagan 1 Yokohama 0; Vegalta 1 Tokyo 0; Kashiwa 0 Sanfrecce 0; Ventforet 0 Omiya 1; Albirex 3 Kawasaki 0.
Oct 18: Tokushima 2 Vissel 2; Vegalta 4 Urawa 2; Kashima 2 Kashiwa 3; Gamba 1 Kawasaki 0; Yokohama 1 Shimizu 0; Albirex 0 Ventforet 0; Sanfrecce 4 Nagoya 0; Omiya 1 Tokyo 0; Sagan 1 Cerezo 0.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urawa	28	17	5	6	48	26	56
Gamba	28	16	4	8	51	27	52
Sagan	28	16	2	10	36	27	50
Kashima	28	15	4	9	55	34	49
Kawasaki	28	14	6	8	47	34	48
Tokyo	28	11	9	8	40	24	42
Sanfrecce	28	11	9	8	36	30	42
Kashiwa	28	11	9	8	36	37	42
Vissel	28	10	11	7	43	40	41
Yokohama	28	11	7	10	30	24	40
Albirex	28	10	8	10	23	28	38
Nagoya	28	10	6	12	37	42	36
Vegalta	28	8	8	12	28	41	32
Omiya	28	8	7	13	36	50	31
Ventforet	28	6	11	11	20	29	29
Shimizu	28	8	4	16	33	49	28
Cerezo	28	6	8	14	28	35	26
Tokushima	28	3	4	21	14	64	13

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

MYANMAR

MYANMAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yadanarbon (C)	22	15	6	1	43	16	51
Yangon Utd	22	15	4	3	63	23	49
Kanbawza	22	12	4	6	37	27	40
Magwe	22	11	3	8	37	29	36
Ayeyawady	22	10	6	6	41	34	36
Nay Pyi Taw	22	10	3	9	36	34	33
Manaw Myay	22	8	5	9	28	27	29
Zeyar SM	22	7	5	10	36	47	26
Zwekapin	22	6	6	10	34	31	24
Chin	22	6	2	14	42	58	20
GFA (R)	22	3	4	15	15	46	13
Sthn M'mar (R)	22	3	4	15	18	58	13

OCEANIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Preliminary round

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – PRELIM RND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lupe OS (Q)	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
Puaikura	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Lotoha'apai	3	1	0	2	4	3	3
SKBC	3	0	1	2	2	11	1

Lotoha'apai United (Ton), Lupe Ole Soaga (Sam), Puaikura (Coo), Samoa Korean Baptist Church (AmS)
● *Lupe Ole Soaga have qualified for the 12-team group stage*

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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FRANCE LIGUE 1 2014-15

BASTIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Alphonse **AREOLA** (21) 27.02.93
16 Jean-Louis **LECA** (29) 21.09.85
30 Thomas **VINCENSINI** (21) 12.09.93

DEFENDERS
2 Romain **ACHILLI** (21) 15.02.93
29 Gilles **CIONI** (30) 14.06.84
23 Drissa **DIAKITE** (Mli) (29) 18.02.85
4 Florian **MARANGE** (28) 03.03.86
20 Francois **MODESTO** (36) 19.08.78
15 Julian **PALMIERI** (27) 17.12.86
17 Mathieu **PEYBERNES** (24) 21.10.90
5 Sebastien **SQUILLACI** (34) 11.08.80

MIDFIELDERS
7 Floyd **AYITE** (Tog) (25) 15.12.88
8 El Hajdi **BA** (21) 05.03.93
10 Ryad **BOUDEBOUZ** (Alg) (24) 19.02.90
18 Yannick **CAHUZAC** (29) 18.01.85
27 Guillaume **GILLET** (Blg) (29) 09.03.85
13 Abdoulaye **KEITA** (Mli) (20) 05.01.94
21 Luka **KIKABIDZE** (Geo) (19) 21.01.95
22 Christopher **MABOULOU** (24) 19.03.90
28 Juan Pablo **PINO** (Col) (27) 30.03.87
6 **ROMARIC** (IvC) (31) 04.06.83
12 Christophe **VINCENT** (22) 08.11.92

FORWARDS
26 **BRANDAO** (Bra) (34) 16.06.80
9 Djibril **CISSE** (33) 12.08.81
25 Francois **KAMANO** (Gui) (18) 01.05.96
14 Famoussa **KONE** (Mli) (20) 03.05.94
19 Benjamin **MOKULU** (Blg) (25) 11.10.89
3 Hervin **ONGENDA** (19) 24.06.95
24 Joao **RODRIGUEZ** (Col) (18) 12.05.96
11 Junior **TALLO** (IvC) (21) 21.12.92

COACH
Claude **MAKELELE** (41) 18.02.73

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS
16 Cedric **CARRASSO** (33) 30.12.81
1 Azbe **JUG** (Sln) (22) 03.03.92
30 Jerome **PRIOR** (19) 08.08.95

DEFENDERS
3 Diego **CONTENTO** (Ger) (24) 01.05.90
22 Julien **FAUBERT** (31) 01.08.83
4 Tiago **ILORI** (Por) (21) 26.02.93
2 **MARIANO** (Bra) (28) 23.06.86
5 Nicolas **PALLOIS** (27) 19.09.87
25 Theo **PELLENARD** (20) 04.03.94
27 Marc **PLANUS** (32) 07.03.82
29 Maxime **POUNDJE** (22) 16.08.92
6 Ludovic **SANE** (Sen) (27) 22.03.87

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26 Clement **BADIN** (21) 26.05.93
15 Younes **KAABOUNI** (19) 23.05.95
24 Wahbi **KHAZRI** (Tun) (23) 08.02.91
19 Nicolas **MAURICE-BELAY** (29) 19.04.85
18 Jaroslav **PLASIL** (CzR) (32) 05.01.82
17 Andre **POKO** (Gab) (21) 01.01.93
8 Gregory **SERTIC** (25) 05.08.89
7 Abdou **TRAORE** (Mli) (26) 17.01.88

FORWARDS
14 Cheikh **DIABATE** (Mli) (26) 25.04.88
20 **JUSSIE** (Bra) (31) 19.09.83
9 Diego **ROLAN** (Uru) (21) 24.03.93
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11 Emiliano **SALA** (Arg) (24) 31.10.90
13 Thomas **TOURE** (20) 27.12.93

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GOALKEEPERS
16 Damien **PERQUIS** (28) 08.03.86
30 Paul **REULET** (20) 14.01.94
1 Remy **VERCOUTRE** (34) 26.06.80

DEFENDERS
12 Dennis **APPIAH** (22) 09.06.92
23 Jean **CALVE** (30) 30.04.84
28 Damien **DA SILVA** (26) 17.05.88
15 Emmanuel **IMOROU** (Ben) (26) 16.09.88
29 Yrondu **MUSAVU-KING** (Gab) (22)08.01.92
13 Jean-Jacques **PIERRE** (Hai) (33) 23.01.81
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19 Felipe **SAAD** (Bra) (31) 11.09.83

MIDFIELDERS
18 Jordan **ADEOTI** (Ben) (25) 12.03.89
26 Jonathan **BEAULIEU** (21) 11.03.93
25 Julien **FERET** (32) 05.07.82
17 N'golo **KANTE** (23) 29.03.91
27 Thomas **LEMAR** (19) 12.11.95
3 Yannick **M'BONE** (Cam) (21) 16.04.93
21 Jose **SAEZ** (32) 07.05.82
2 Nicolas **SEUBE** (35) 11.08.79

FORWARDS
20 Herve **BAZILE** (24) 18.03.90
7 Mathieu **DUHAMEL** (30) 12.07.84
11 Bengadli-Fode **KOITA** (24) 21.10.90
10 Lenny **NANGIS** (20) 24.03.94
9 Sloan **PRIVAT** (25) 24.07.89
24 Florian **RASPENTINO** (25) 06.06.89

COACH
Patrice **GARANDE** (54) 27.11.60

EVIAN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Johann **DURAND** (33) 17.06.81
30 Jesper **HANSEN** (Den) (29) 31.03.85
40 Benjamin **LEROY** (25) 07.04.89

DEFENDERS
2 Kassim **ABDALLAH** (Com) (27) 09.04.87
17 Aldo **ANGOULA** (23) 04.05.81
22 Cedric **CAMBON** (28) 20.09.86
12 Gael **GIVET** (33) 09.10.81
26 Jesper **JUELSGAARD** (Den) (25) 26.01.89
25 Jonathan **MENSAH** (Gha) (24) 13.07.90
21 Cedric **MONGONGU** (DRC) (25) 22.06.89
19 Youssouf **SABALY** (21) 05.03.93
18 Daniel **WASS** (Den) (25) 31.05.89

MIDFIELDERS
14 Cedric **BARBOSA** (38) 06.03.76
10 Nicolas **BENEZET** (23) 24.02.91
11 Fabien **CAMUS** (Tun) (29) 28.02.85
6 Djakaridja **KONE** (BuF) (28) 22.07.86
5 Milos **NINKOVIC** (Ser) (29) 25.12.84
24 Olivier **SORLIN** (35) 09.04.79
8 Yeltsin **TEJEDA** (CR) (22) 17.03.92

FORWARDS
28 Najib **BAOUIA** (Alg) (22) 25.02.92
9 Gianni **BRUNO** (Blg) (23) 19.08.91
23 Nicki Bille **NIELSEN** (Den) (26) 07.02.88
27 Clarck **N'SIKULU** (DRC) (22) 10.07.92
20 Modou **SOUGOU** (Sen) (29) 18.12.84
7 Adrien **THOMASSON** (20) 10.12.93

COACH
Pascal **DUPRAZ** (52) 19.09.62

GUINGAMP

GOALKEEPERS
16 Hugo **GUICHARD** (22) 16.05.92
1 Jonas **LOSSL** (Den) (25) 01.02.89
30 Mamadou **SAMASSA** (Mli) (24) 16.02.90

DEFENDERS
3 Benjamin **ANGOUA** (IvC) (28) 28.11.86
6 Maxime **BACA** (31) 02.06.83
2 Lars **JACOBSEN** (Den) (35) 20.09.79
29 Christophe **KERBRAT** (28) 02.08.86
25 Reynald **LEMAITRE** (31) 28.06.83
7 Dorian **LEVEQUE** (25) 22.11.89
4 Baissama **SANKOH** (Gui) (22) 20.03.92
15 Jeremy **SORBON** (31) 05.08.83

MIDFIELDERS
12 Claudio **BEAUVUE** (26) 16.04.88
22 Julien **CARDY** (33) 29.09.81
5 Moustapha **DIALLO** (Sen) (28) 14.05.86
20 Laurent **DOS SANTOS** (21) 21.09.93
26 Thibault **GIRESSE** (33) 25.05.81
21 Sylvain **MARVEAUX** (28) 15.04.86
18 Lionel **MATHIS** (33) 04.10.81
23 Jeremy **PIED** (25) 23.02.89
10 Younousse **SANKHARE** (25) 10.09.89
24 Sambou **YATABARE** (Mli) (25) 02.03.89

FORWARDS
17 Rachid **ALIOUI** (Mor) (22) 18.06.92
14 Ladislas **DOUNIAMA** (Con) (28) 24.05.86
13 Christophe **MANDANNE** (29) 07.02.85
8 Ronnie **SCHWARTZ** (Den) (25) 29.08.89

COACH
Jocelyn **GOURVENNEC** (42) 22.03.72

METZ

GOALKEEPERS
1 Johann **CARRASSO** (26) 07.05.88
16 Anthony **MFA MEZUI** (Gab) (23) 07.03.91
30 David **OBERHAUSER** (24) 29.11.89

DEFENDERS
24 Gaetan **BUSSMANN** (23) 02.02.91
18 Jeremy **CHOPLIN** (29) 09.02.85
4 Sylvain **MARCHAL** (34) 10.02.80
15 Romain **METANIRE** (24) 28.03.90
5 Guido **MILAN** (Arg) (27) 03.07.87
27 Jose Luis **PALOMINO** (Arg) (24) 05.01.90
26 Chris **PHILIPPS** (Lux) (20) 08.03.94
3 Jonathan **RIVIEREZ** (25) 18.05.89

MIDFIELDERS
8 Cheick **DOUKOURE** (22) 11.09.92
21 Ahmed **KASHI** (26) 18.11.88
29 Sergey **KRIVETS** (Bls) (26) 08.06.86
22 Kevin **LEJEUNE** (29) 22.01.85
13 Florent **MALOUDA** (34) 13.06.80
25 Guirane **N'DAW** (Sen) (30) 24.04.84
28 Mayoro **N'DOYE-BAYE** (Sen) (22) 18.12.91
23 Yeni Atito **NGBAKOTO** (22) 23.01.92
7 Romain **ROCCHI** (33) 02.10.81
10 Bouna **SARR** (22) 31.01.92
14 Fadil **SIDO** (21) 13.04.93

FORWARDS
11 Federico **ANDRADA** (Arg) (20) 03.03.94
17 Maxwel **CORNET** (18) 27.09.96
9 Juan Manuel **FALCON** (Ven) (25) 24.02.89
20 Modibo **MAIGA** (Mli) (28) 03.09.86
12 Kwame **NSOR** (Gha) (22) 01.08.92
19 Thibaut **VION** (20) 11.12.93

COACH
Albert **CARTIER** (54) 22.11.60

MONACO

GOALKEEPERS
40 Marc-Aurele **CAILLARD** (20) 12.05.94
16 Maarten **STEKELENBURG** (Hol) (32) 22.09.82
1 Danijel **SUBASIC** (Cro) (30) 27.10.84

DEFENDERS
5 Aymen **ABDENNOUR** (Tun) (25) 06.08.89
6 Ricardo **CARVALHO** (Por) (36) 18.05.78
34 Abdou **DIALLO** (18) 04.05.96
21 **ELDERSON** Echiejile (Nga) (26) 20.01.88
2 **FABINHO** (Bra) (21) 23.10.93
3 Layvin **KURZAWA** (22) 04.09.92
4 Borja **LOPEZ** (Spa) (20) 02.02.94
24 Andrea **RAGGI** (Ita) (30) 24.06.84
38 Almary **TOURE** (Mli) (18) 28.04.96
13 **WALLACE** (Bra) (20) 14.10.94

MIDFIELDERS
29 Dylan **BAHAMBOULA** (19) 22.05.95
14 Tiemoue **BAKAYOKO** (20) 17.08.94
15 **BERNARDO** Silva (Por) (20) 10.08.94
7 Nabil **DIRAR** (Mor) (28) 25.02.86
17 Yannick **FERREIRA CARRASCO** (Blg) (21) 04.09.93
22 Geoffrey **KONDOGBIA** (21) 25.04.93
8 Joao **MOUTINHO** (Por) (28) 08.09.86
11 Lucas **OCAMPOS** (Arg) (20) 11.07.94
37 Aboud Aziz **THIAM** (17) 15.01.97
28 Jeremy **TOULALAN** (21) 10.09.83

FORWARDS
10 Dimitar **BERBATOV** (Bul) (33) 30.01.81
18 Valere **GERMAIN** (24) 17.04.90
23 Anthony **MARTIAL** (18) 05.12.95
19 Lacina **TRAORE** (IvC) (24) 20.08.90

COACH
Leonardo **JARDIM** (Por) (40) 01.08.74

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS
16 Geoffrey **JOURDREN** (28) 04.02.86
30 Jonathan **LIGALI** (23) 28.05.91
1 Laurent **PIONNIER** (32) 24.05.82

DEFENDERS
3 Daniel **CONGRE** (29) 05.04.85
25 Mathieu **DEPLAGNE** (23) 01.10.91
21 Abdelhamid **EL KAOUTARI** (Mor) (24) 17.03.90
13 Dylan **GISSI** (Swi) (23) 27.04.91
4 **HILTON** (Bra) (37) 13.09.77
26 Yassine **JEBBOUR** (Mor) (23) 24.08.91
32 Nicolas **SAINT-RUF** (22) 24.10.92
5 Siaka **TIENE** (IvC) (32) 22.02.82

MIDFIELDERS
14 Bryan **DABO** (22) 18.02.92
17 Paul **LASNE** (25) 16.01.89
8 Jonas **MARTIN** (24) 09.04.90
6 Joris **MARVEAUX** (32) 15.08.82
23 Jamel **SAIHI** (Tun) (27) 27.01.87
20 Morgan **SANSON** (30) 18.08.94
29 Gianni **SERAF** (20) 05.07.94

FORWARDS
18 Karim **AIT-FANA** (Mor) (25) 25.02.89
28 Djamel **BAKAR** (25) 06.04.89
10 Lucas **BARRIOS** (Par) (30) 13.11.84
9 Kevin **BERIGAUD** (30) 03.03.84
19 Souleymane **CAMARA** (Sen) (31) 22.12.82
31 Quentin **CORNETTE** (20) 17.01.94
24 Jean **DEZA** (Per) (21) 09.06.93
11 Victor Hugo **MONTANO** (Col) (30) 01.05.84
27 Steve **MOUNIE** (20) 29.09.94
7 Anthony **MOUNIER** (27) 27.09.87

COACH
Rolland **COURBIS** (61) 12.08.53

NANTES

GOALKEEPERS
40 Nassim **BADRI** (20) 08.12.93
30 Maxime **DUPE** (21) 04.03.93
1 Remy **RIOU** (27) 06.08.87
16 Erwin **ZELAZNY** (23) 22.09.91

DEFENDERS
24 Chaker **ALHADHUR** (Com) (22) 04.12.91
22 Issa **CISSOKHO** (Sen) (29) 23.02.85
26 Koffi **DJIDJI** (21) 30.11.92
3 Papy **DJILOBODJI** (Sen) (35) 01.12.88
15 Leo **DUBOIS** (20) 14.09.94
2 Kian **HANSEN** (Den) (25) 03.03.89
5 Olivier **VEIGNEAU** (29) 16.07.85
4 Oswaldo **VIZCARRONDO** (Ven) (30) 31.05.84

MIDFIELDERS
7 Alejandro **BEDOYA** (USA) (27) 29.04.87
8 Vincent **BESSAT** (29) 08.11.85
18 Lucas **DEAUX** (25) 26.12.88
13 Serge **GAKPE** (Tog) (27) 07.05.87
6 Remi **GOMIS** (Sen) (30) 14.02.84
14 Georges-Kevin **NKOUDOU** (19) 13.02.95
20 Amine **OUDRHIRI** (22) 04.11.92
28 Valentin **RONGIER** (19) 07.12.94
19 Abdoulaye **TOURE** (20) 03.03.94
12 Birama **TOURE** (Mli) (22) 06.06.92
25 Jordan **VERETOUT** (21) 01.03.93

FORWARDS
10 Fernando **ARISTEGUIETA** (Ven) (22) 09.04.92
21 Johan **AUDEL** (20) 12.12.83
23 Yacine **BAMMOU** (23) 11.09.91
11 Ismael **BANGOURA** (Gui) (29) 02.01.85
9 Itay **SHECHTER** (Isr) (27) 22.02.87

COACH
Michel **DER ZAKARIAN** (Arm) (51) 18.02.63

NICE

GOALKEEPERS
40 Yoan **CARDINALE** (20) 27.03.94
30 Joris **DELLE** (24) 29.03.90
1 Mouez **HASSAN** (19) 05.03.95
16 Simon **POUPLIN** (29) 28.05.85

DEFENDERS
19 Jordan **AMAVI** (20) 09.03.94
24 Mathieu **BODMER** (32) 22.11.82
20 Souleymane **DIAWARA** (Sen) (35) 24.12.78
25 Romain **GENEVOIS** (Hai) (27) 28.10.87
5 Kevin **GOMIS** (25) 20.01.89
31 Moussa **M'BOW** (Sen) (22) 07.02.92
21 Lloyd **PALUN** (Gab) (26) 28.11.88
15 Gregoire **PUEL** (22) 20.02.92

MIDFIELDERS
11 Eric **BAUTHEAC** (27) 24.08.87
28 Fabien **DAO CASTELLANA** (21) 28.07.93
6 Didier **DIGARD** (28) 12.07.86
3 Carlos **EDUARDO** (Bra) (25) 17.10.89
10 Valentin **EYSSERIC** (22) 25.03.92
13 Niklas **HULT** (Swe) (24) 13.02.90
22 Nampalys **MENDY** (22) 23.06.92
14 Alassane **PLEA** (21) 10.03.93
8 Mahamane **TRAORE** (Mli) (26) 31.08.88
7 Julien **VERCAUTEREN** (Blg) (21) 12.01.93

FORWARDS
23 Alexy **BOSETTI** (21) 23.04.93
27 Bryan **CONSTANT** (20) 27.03.94
12 Dario **CVITANICH** (Arg) (30) 16.05.84
18 Neal **MAUPAY** (18) 14.08.96
9 Xavier **PENTECOTE** (28) 13.08.86

COACH
Claude **PUEL** (53) 02.09.61

(ages as of 28.11.14)

LENS

GOALKEEPERS
40 Valentin **BELON** (19) 13.06.95
1 Rudy **RIOU** (34) 22.01.80

DEFENDERS
34 Abdoul **BA** (Mra) (20) 08.02.94
24 Ludovic **BAAL** (28) 24.05.86
27 Benjamin **BOULENGER** (24) 01.03.90
33 Dimitri **CAVARE** (19) 05.02.95
15 Patrick **FRADJ** (22) 11.03.92
25 Jean-Philippe **GBAMIN** (19) 25.05.95
4 Ahmed **KANTARI** (Mor) (29) 28.06.85
22 Loick **LANDRE** (22) 05.05.92
5 Alaeddine **YAHIA** (Tun) (33) 26.08.81

MIDFIELDERS
29 Benjamin **BOURIGEAUD** (20) 14.01.94
23 Wylan **CYPRIEN** (19) 28.01.95
21 Alharbi **EL JADEYAOUI** (Mor) (28) 08.08.86
6 Jerome **LEMOIGNE** (31) 15.02.83
14 Deme **N'DIAYE** (Sen) (29) 06.02.85
20 Lalaina **NOMENJANAHARY** (Mad) (28) 16.01.86
18 Pierrick **VALDIVIA** (26) 18.04.88

FORWARDS
11 Pablo **CHAVARRIA** (Arg) (26) 02.01.88
9 Adamo **COULIBALY** (33) 14.08.81
19 Baptiste **GUILLAUME** (Blg) (19) 16.06.95
7 Yoann **TOUZGHAR** (28) 28.11.86

COACH
Antoine **KOMBOUARE** (51) 16.11.63

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS
30 Jean **BUTEZ** (19) 08.06.95
16 Steeve **ELANA** (34) 11.07.80
1 Vincent **ENYEAMA** (Nga) (32) 29.08.82

DEFENDERS
25 Marko **BASA** (Mne) (31) 29.12.82
18 Franck **BERIA** (31) 23.05.83
2 Sebastien **CORCHIA** (24) 01.11.90
14 Simon **KJAER** (Den) (25) 26.03.89
22 David **ROZEHNAL** (CzR) (34) 05.07.80
15 Djibril **SIDIBE** (22) 29.07.92
23 Pape **SOUARE** (Sen) (24) 06.06.90
13 Adama **SOUMAORO** (22) 18.06.92

MIDFIELDERS
4 Florent **BALMONT** (34) 02.02.80
6 Jonathan **DELAPLACE** (28) 20.03.86
5 Idrissa **GUEYE** (Sen) (25) 26.09.89
17 Marcos **LOPES** (Por) (18) 28.12.95
10 Marvin **MARTIN** (26) 10.06.88
24 Rio **MAVUBA** (28) 08.03.84
12 Souahilo **MEITE** (18) 17.03.94

FORWARDS
11 Michael **FREY** (Swi) (20) 19.07.94
20 Ryan **MENDES** (CVI) (24) 08.01.90
27 Divock **ORIGI** (Blg) (19) 18.04.95
9 Ronny **RODELIN** (25) 18.11.89
26 Nolan **ROUX** (26) 01.03.88

COACH
Rene **GIRARD** (60) 04.04.54

LORIENT

GOALKEEPERS
16 Fabien **AUDARD** (36) 28.03.78
30 Florent **CHAIGNEAU** (30) 21.03.84
40 Benjamin **LECOMTE** (23) 26.04.91

DEFENDERS
6 Francois **BELLUGOU** (27) 25.04.87
25 Lamine **GASSAMA** (Sen) (25) 20.10.89
14 Raphael **GUERREIRO** (20) 22.12.93
24 Wesley **LAUTOA** (NC) (27) 25.08.87
4 Vincent **LE GOFF** (25) 15.10.89
2 Lamine **KONE** (25) 01.02.89
3 **PEDRINHO** (Por) (29) 06.03.85
29 Cheick **TOURE** (IvC) (21) 16.12.92
26 Yohann **WACHTER** (22) 07.04.92

MIDFIELDERS
13 Rafidine **ABDULLAH** (20) 15.01.94
23 Mathias **AUTRET** (23) 01.03.91
28 Maxime **BARTHELME** (26) 08.09.88
10 Mathieu **COUTADEUR** (28) 20.06.86
8 Yann **JOUFFRE** (30) 23.07.84
12 Pierre **LAVENANT** (19) 03.08.95
17 Walid **MESLOUB** (Alg) (29) 04.09.85
32 Mehdi **MOSTEFA** (Alg) (31) 30.08.83
19 Bryan **PELE** (22) 25.03.92
27 Enzo **REALE** (23) 07.10.91
18 Gilles **SUNU** (23) 30.03.91
21 Alain **TRAORE** (BuF) (25) 31.12.88

FORWARDS
9 Jordan **AYEW** (Gha) (23) 11.09.91
7 Sadio **DIALLO** (Gui) (23) 28.12.90
22 Benjamin **JEANNOT** (22) 22.01.92
31 Valentin **LAVIGNE** (20) 04.06.94
20 Julien **QUERCIA** (28) 17.08.86
15 Fabien **ROBERT** (25) 06.01.89

COACH
Sylvain **RIPOLL** (43) 15.08.71

LYON

GOALKEEPERS
16 Jeremy **FRICK** (Swi) (21) 08.03.93
30 Mathieu **GORGELIN** (24) 05.08.90
1 Anthony **LOPES** (Por) (24) 01.10.90

DEFENDERS
3 Henri **BEDIMO** (Cam) (30) 04.06.84
5 Milan **BISEVAC** (Ser) (31) 31.08.83
14 Mouhamadou **DABO** (28) 28.11.86
13 Christophe **JALLET** (31) 31.10.83
4 Bakari **KONE** (BuF) (36) 27.04.88
22 Lindsay **ROSE** (22) 08.02.92
23 Samuel **UMTITI** (21) 14.11.93
2 Mehdi **ZEFFANE** (Alg) (22) 19.05.92

MIDFIELDERS
29 Fares **BAHLOULI** (19) 08.04.95
26 Gael **DANIC** (33) 19.11.81
18 Nabil **FEKIR** (21) 18.07.93
12 Jordan **FERRI** (22) 12.03.92
6 Gueida **FOFANA** (23) 16.05.91
11 Rachid **GHEZZAL** (22) 09.05.92
21 Maxime **GONALONS** (25) 10.03.89
8 Yoann **GOURCUFF** (28) 11.07.86
7 Clement **GRENIER** (23) 07.01.91
17 Steed **MALBRANQUE** (34) 06.01.80
28 Arnold **MVUEMBA** (29) 28.01.85
24 Corentin **TOLISSO** (20) 03.08.94

FORWARDS
25 Yassine **BENZIA** (20) 08.09.94
10 Alexandre **LACAZETTE** (23) 28.05.91
20 Clinton **N'JIE** (Cam) (21) 15.08.93
19 Mohamed **YATTARA** (Gui) (21) 28.07.93

COACH
Hubert **FOURNIER** (47) 03.09.67

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS
40 Julien **FABRI** (20) 05.02.94
30 Steve **MANDANDA** (29) 28.03.85
16 Brice **SAMBA** (Con) (20) 25.04.94

DEFENDERS
26 Brice **DJA DJEDJE** (IvC) (23) 23.12.90
4 **DORIA** (Bra) (20) 08.11.94
24 Rod **FANNI** (32) 06.12.81
23 Benjamin **MENDY** (20) 17.07.94
15 Jeremy **MOREL** (30) 02.04.84
3 Nicolas **NKOULOU** (Cam) (24) 27.03.90
5 Stephane **SPARAGNA** (19) 17.02.95

MIDFIELDERS
11 Romain **ALESSANDRINI** (25) 03.04.89
6 Momar **BANGOURA** (20) 24.02.94
27 Abdelaziz **BARRADA** (Mor) (25) 19.06.89
7 Benoit **CHEYROU** (33) 03.05.81
25 Gianelli **IMBULA** (22) 12.09.92
8 Mario **LEMINA** (21) 01.09.93
20 Alaixys **ROMAO** (Tog) (30) 18.01.84
14 Florian **THAUVIN** (21) 26.01.93

FORWARDS
10 Andre **AYEW** (Gha) (24) 17.12.89
22 Michy **BATSHUAYI** (Blg) (21) 02.10.93
9 Andre-Pierre **GIGNAC** (29) 12.05.85
17 Dimitri **PAYET** (27) 29.03.87
29 Jeremie **PORSAN-CLEMENTE** (16) 16.12.97

COACH
Marcelo **BIELSA** (Arg) (59) 21.07.55

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS
40 Mory **DIAW** (21) 22.06.93
1 Nicolas **DOUCHEZ** (34) 22.04.80
16 Mike **MAIGNAN** (19) 03.07.95
30 Salvatore **SIRIGU** (Ita) (27) 12.01.87

DEFENDERS
19 Serge **AURIER** (IvC) (21) 24.12.92
6 Zoumana **CAMARA** (35) 03.04.79
21 Lucas **DIGNE** (21) 20.07.93
32 David **LUIZ** (Bra) (27) 22.04.87
5 **MARQUINHOS** (Bra) (20) 14.05.94
17 **MAXWELL** (Bra) (33) 27.08.81
2 Thiago **SILVA** (Bra) (30) 22.09.84
23 Gregory **VAN DER WIEL** (Hol) (26) 03.02.88

MIDFIELDERS
4 Yohan **CABAYE** (28) 14.01.86
20 Clement **CHANTOME** (27) 11.09.87
7 **LUCAS** (Bra) (22) 13.08.92
14 Blaise **MATUIDI** (27) 09.04.87
8 Thiago **MOTTA** (Ita) (32) 28.08.82
27 Javier **PASTORE** (Arg) (35) 20.06.89
25 Adrien **RABIOT** (19) 03.04.95
24 Marco **VERRATTI** (Ita) (22) 05.11.92

FORWARDS
15 Jean-Christophe **BAHEBECK** (21) 01.05.93
9 Edinson **CAVANI** (Uru) (27) 14.02.87
10 Zlatan **IBRAHIMOVIC** (Swe) (33) 03.10.81
22 Ezequiel **LAVEZZI** (Arg) (29) 03.05.85

COACH
Laurent **BLANC** (49) 19.11.65

REIMS

GOALKEEPERS
16 Kossi **AGASSA** (Tog) (36) 07.07.78
1 Sacha **BASTIEN** (19) 22.01.95
30 Johnny **PLACIDE** (Hai) (26) 29.01.88

DEFENDERS
28 Antoine **CONTE** (20) 29.01.94
2 Mohamed **FOFANA** (Mli) (29) 07.03.85
27 Christopher **GLOMBARD** (25) 05.06.89
23 Aissa **MANDI** (Alg) (23) 22.10.91
15 Chris **MAVINGA** (23) 26.05.91
26 Omenuke **MFULU** (20) 20.03.94
4 Valentin **ROBERGE** (27) 09.06.87
3 Franck **SIGNORINO** (Ita) (33) 19.09.81
22 Mickael **TACALFRED** (Gdp) (33) 23.04.81
25 Anthony **WEBER** (27) 11.06.87

MIDFIELDERS
17 Mads **ALBAEK** (Den) (24) 14.01.90
5 Gregory **BOURILLON** (30) 01.07.84
21 Bocundji **CA** (GuB) (27) 28.12.86
6 Antoine **DEVAUX** (29) 21.02.85
8 Prince **ONIANGUE** (Con) (26) 04.11.88
19 Alexi **PEUGET** (23) 18.12.90

FORWARDS
9 Eliran **ATAR** (Isr) (27) 17.02.87
20 Yann **BENEDICK** (22) 01.02.92
10 Gaetan **CHARBONNIER** (25) 27.12.88
18 Gaetan **COURTET** (25) 22.02.89
12 Nicolas **DE PREVILLE** (23) 08.01.91
11 **DIEGO** (Bra) (26) 09.03.88
7 Odair **FORTES** (CVI) (27) 31.03.87
29 Grejohn **KIEY** (19) 12.08.95
14 Benjamin **MOUKANDJO** (Cam) (26) 12.11.88
24 David **N'GOG** (25) 01.04.89

COACH
Jean-Luc **VASSEUR** (45) 01.01.69

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS
1 Benoit **COSTIL** (27) 03.07.87
16 Olivier **SORIN** (33) 16.04.81

DEFENDERS
21 Benjamin **ANDRE** (24) 03.08.90
22 Sylvain **ARMAND** (34) 01.08.80
29 Romain **DANZE** (28) 03.07.86
14 Fallou **DIAGNE** (Sen) (25) 14.08.89
5 Jean-Armel **KANA-BIYIK** (Cam) (25) 03.07.89
3 Cheikh **M'BENGUE** (Sen) (26) 23.07.88
4 **MEXER** (Moz) (29) 08.09.85
12 Steven **MOREIRA** (20) 13.08.94
28 Gjoko **ZAJKOV** (Mac) (19) 10.02.95

MIDFIELDERS
25 Zana **ALLEE** (18) 29.04.96
8 Abdoulaye **DOUCOURE** (21) 01.01.93
6 Gelson **FERNANDES** (Swi) (28) 02.09.86
10 Kamil **GROSICKI** (Pol) (26) 08.06.88
18 Pedro **HENRIQUE** (Bra) (24) 16.06.90
19 Adrien **HUNOU** (20) 19.01.94
23 Anders **KONRADSEN** (Nor) (24) 18.07.90
15 Jean **MAKOUN** (Cam) (31) 29.05.83
20 Axel **NGANDO** (21) 13.07.93
17 Vincent **PAJOT** (24) 19.08.90
24 Sanjin **PRCIC** (Bos) (21) 20.11.93

FORWARDS
27 Habib **HABIBOU** (CAR) (27) 16.04.87
11 Philipp **HOSINER** (Aut) (25) 15.05.89
7 Paul-Georges **NTEP** (22) 29.07.92
9 Ola **TOIVONEN** (Swe) (28) 03.07.86

COACH
Philippe **MONTANIER** (50) 15.11.64

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS
30 Jessy **MOULIN** (28) 13.01.86
16 Stephane **RUFFIER** (28) 27.09.86
1 Baptiste **VALETTE** (22) 01.09.92

DEFENDERS
26 Moustapha **BAYAL SALL** (Sen) (28) 30.11.85
23 Paul **BAYSSE** (26) 15.05.88
20 Jonathan **BRISON** (31) 07.02.83
29 Francois **CLERC** (31) 18.04.83
24 Loic **PERRIN** (29) 07.08.85
19 Florentin **POGBA** (Gui) (24) 19.08.90
2 Kevin **THEOPHILE CATHERINE** (25) 28.10.89

MIDFIELDERS
6 Jeremy **CLEMENT** (30) 26.08.84
10 Renaud **COHADE** (30) 29.09.84
8 Benjamin **CORGNET** (27) 06.04.87
28 Ismael **DIOMANDE** (IvC) (22) 28.08.92
21 Romain **HAMOUMA** (27) 29.03.87
18 Fabien **LEMOINE** (27) 16.03.87
27 Franck **TABANOU** (25) 30.01.89

FORWARDS
9 Mevlut **ERDINC** (Tur) (27) 25.02.87
7 Max **GRADEL** (IvC) (26) 30.11.87
11 Yohan **MOLLO** (25) 18.07.89
22 Kevin **MONNET-PAQUET** (26) 19.08.88
12 Allan **SAINT-MAXIMIN** (17) 12.03.97
13 Ricky **VAN WOLFSWINKEL** (Hol) (25) 27.01.89

COACH
Christophe **GALTIER** (48) 28.08.66

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS
30 Ali **AHAMADA** (23) 19.08.91
1 Zacharie **BOUCHER** (22) 07.03.92
40 Lionel **MPASI** (20) 01.08.94
16 Marc **VIDAL** (23) 03.06.91

DEFENDERS
7 Jean-Daniel **AKPA AKPRO** (IvC) (22) 11.10.92
25 Dragos **GRIGORE** (Rom) (28) 07.09.86
6 William **MATHEUS** (Bra) (24) 02.04.90
29 Francois **MOUBANDJE** (Swi) (24) 21.06.90
24 Pavle **NINKOV** (Ser) (29) 20.04.85
15 Uros **SPAJIC** (Ser) (21) 13.02.93
2 Maxime **SPANO** (20) 31.10.94
5 Issiaga **SYLLA** (Gui) (20) 01.01.94
23 Marcel **TISSERAND** (21) 10.01.93
22 Dusan **VESKOVAC** (Ser) (26) 16.03.86
20 Steeve **YAGO** (BuF) (21) 16.12.92

MIDFIELDERS
21 Abel **AGUILAR** (Col) (29) 06.01.85
8 Etienne **DIDOT** (31) 24.07.83
4 Tongo **DOUMBIA** (Mli) (25) 06.08.89
13 Dominik **FURMAN** (Pol) (22) 06.07.92
17 Adrien **REGATTIN** (Mor) (23) 22.08.91
28 Mihai **ROMAN** (Rom) (30) 16.11.84
14 Francois **SIRIEIX** (34) 07.10.80
18 Oscar **TREJO** (Arg) (26) 26.04.88

FORWARDS
10 Wissam **BEN YEDDER** (24) 12.08.90
9 Martin **BRAITHWAITE** (Den) (23) 05.06.91
12 Florian **DAVID** (22) 16.11.92
11 Aleksandar **PESIC** (Ser) (22) 21.05.92
27 Amadou **SOUKOUNA** (22) 21.06.92
26 Sana **ZANIOU** (BuF) (19) 31.12.94

COACH
Alain **CASANOVA** (53) 18.09.61

SPAIN LA LIGA 2014-15

ALMERIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 **JULIAN** Cuesta (23) 28.03.91
25 **RUBEN** (30) 22.06.84

DEFENDERS
6 Mauro **DOS SANTOS** (Arg) (25) 07.07.89
21 **MANE** (32) 22.12.81
2 **MICHEL** Macedo (Bra) (24) 15.02.90
5 Angel **TRUJILLO** (27) 08.09.87
3 Fran **VELEZ** (23) 23.06.91
4 **XIMO** Navarro (24) 23.01.90

MIDFIELDERS
20 Ramon **AZEEZ** (Nga) (21) 12.12.92
15 Miguel Angel **CORONA** (33) 12.02.81
17 **EDGAR** Mendez (24) 30.04.90
22 Thomas **PARTEY** (Gha) (21) 13.07.93
23 Fernando **SORIANO** (35) 24.09.79
7 **VERZA** (28) 29.09.86

FORWARDS
9 Thievy **BIFOUMA** (Fra) (22) 13.05.92
18 Teerasil **DANGDA** (Tha) (26) 06.06.88
16 Sebastian **DUBARBIER** (Arg) (28) 19.02.86
10 Tomer **HEMED** (Isr) (27) 02.05.87
11 **QUIQUE** Gonzalez (24) 16.05.90
8 Wellington **SILVA** (Bra) (21) 06.01.93
19 Jonathan **ZONGO** (BuF) (21) 02.12.92

COACH
Francisco **RODRIGUEZ** (36) 17.06.78

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS
13 Iago **HERRERIN** (26) 25.01.88
1 Gorka **IRAIZOZ** (33) 06.03.81

DEFENDERS
3 Jon **AURTENETXE** (22) 03.01.92
24 Mikel **BALENZIAGA** (26) 29.02.88
12 Unai **BUSTINZA** (22) 02.02.92
15 Andoni **IRAOLA** (32) 22.06.82
4 Aymeric **LAPORTE** (Fra) (20) 27.05.94
6 Mikel **SAN JOSE** (25) 30.05.89

MIDFIELDERS
23 Ager **AKETXE** (20) 30.12.93
7 **BENAT** (27) 19.02.87
10 Oscar **DE MARCOS** (25) 14.04.89
16 Xabier **ETXEITA** (27) 31.10.87
18 Carlos **GURPEGI** (34) 19.08.80
8 Ander **ITURRASPE** (25) 08.03.89
29 Unai **LOPEZ** (19) 30.10.95
5 Erik **MORAN** (23) 25.05.91
17 Mikel **RICO** (30) 01.11.84
14 Markel **SUSAETA** (26) 14.12.87
2 Gaizka **TOQUERO** (30) 09.08.84

FORWARDS
20 Aritz **ADURIZ** (33) 11.02.81
11 Ibai **GOMEZ** (25) 11.11.89
22 **GUILLERMO** Fernandez (21) 23.05.93
19 Iker **MUNIAIN** (21) 19.12.92
9 Kike **SOLA** (28) 25.02.86
21 Borja **VIGUERA** (27) 26.03.87

COACH
Ernesto **VALVERDE** (50) 09.02.64

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS
1 Miguel Angel **MOYA** (30) 02.04.84
13 Jan **OBLAK** (Sln) (21) 07.01.93

DEFENDERS
15 Cristian **ANSALDI** (Arg) (28) 20.09.86
18 Jesus **GAMEZ** (29) 10.04.85
24 Jose **GIMENEZ** (Uru) (19) 20.01.95
2 Diego **GODIN** (Uru) (28) 16.02.86
20 **JUANFRAN** (29) 09.01.85
23 **MIRANDA** (Bra) (30) 07.09.84
3 Guilherme **SIQUEIRA** (Bra) (28) 28.04.86

MIDFIELDERS
10 **ARDA** Turan (Tur) (27) 30.01.87
14 **GABI** (31) 10.07.83
8 Raul **GARCIA** (28) 11.07.86
6 **KOKE** (22) 08.01.92
21 Cristian **RODRIGUEZ** (Uru) (29) 30.09.85
17 **SAUL** Niguez (20) 21.11.94
4 Mario **SUAREZ** (27) 24.02.87
5 **TIAGO** Mendes (Por) (33) 02.05.81

FORWARDS
22 Alessio **CERCI** (Ita) (27) 23.07.87
7 Antoine **GRIEZMANN** (Fra) (23) 21.03.91
27 Hector **HERNANDEZ** (19) 14.09.95
11 Raul **JIMENEZ** (Mex) (23) 05.05.91
9 Mario **MANDZUKIC** (Cro) (28) 21.05.86

COACH
Diego **SIMEONE** (Arg) (44) 28.04.70

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS
13 Claudio **BRAVO** (Chl) (31) 13.04.83
25 Jordi **MASIP** (25) 03.01.89
1 Marc-Andre **TER STEGEN** (Ger) (22) 30.04.92

DEFENDERS
18 Jordi **ALBA** (25) 21.03.89
22 Dani **ALVES** (Bra) (31) 06.05.83
15 Marc **BARTRA** (23) 15.01.91
16 **DOUGLAS** (Bra) (24) 06.08.90
24 Jeremy **MATHIEU** (Fra) (31) 29.10.83
2 Martin **MONTOYA** (23) 14.04.91
3 Gerard **PIQUE** (27) 02.02.87
23 Thomas **VERMAELEN** (Blg) (29) 14.11.85

MIDFIELDERS
21 **ADRIANO** (Bra) (30) 26.10.84
5 Sergio **BUSQUETS** (26) 16.07.88
8 Andres **INIESTA** (30) 11.05.84
14 Javier **MASCHERANO** (Arg) (30) 08.06.84
12 **RAFINHA** (Bra) (21) 12.02.93
4 Ivan **RAKITIC** (Cro) (26) 10.03.88
20 Sergi **ROBERTO** (22) 07.02.92
6 **XAVI** (34) 25.01.80

FORWARDS
31 Munir **EL HADDADI** (19) 01.09.95
10 Lionel **MESSI** (Arg) (27) 24.06.87
11 **NEYMAR** (Bra) (22) 05.02.92
7 **PEDRO** (27) 28.07.87
29 Sandro **RAMIREZ** (19) 09.07.95
9 Luis **SUAREZ** (Uru) (27) 24.01.87

COACH
Luis **ENRIQUE** (44) 08.05.70

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS
13 **RUBEN** Blanco (19) 25.07.95
1 **SERGIO** Alvarez (28) 03.08.86

DEFENDERS
22 Gustavo **CABRAL** (Arg) (29) 14.10.85
15 David **COSTAS** (19) 26.03.95
3 Andreu **FONTAS** (25) 14.11.89
20 Sergi **GOMEZ** (22) 28.07.92
19 **JONNY** (20) 03.03.94
2 Hugo **MALLO** (23) 22.06.91
21 Carles **PLANAS** (23) 04.03.91
6 Nemanja **RADOJA** (Ser) (21) 06.02.93

MIDFIELDERS
24 Augusto **FERNANDEZ** (Arg) (28) 10.04.86
28 Borja **FERNANDEZ** (19) 16.08.95
5 Pablo **HERNANDEZ** (Arg) (28) 24.10.86
23 Michael **KROHN-DEHLI** (Den) (31) 06.06.83
8 Alex **LOPEZ** (26) 11.01.88
17 Levy **MADINDA** (Gab) (22) 11.06.92
4 Borja **OUBINA** (32) 17.05.82

FORWARDS
9 **CHARLES** (Bra) (30) 04.04.84
11 Joaquin **LARRIVEY** (Arg) (30) 20.08.84
7 Santi **MINA** (18) 07.12.95
10 **NOLITO** (28) 15.10.86
14 Fabian **ORELLANA** (Chl) (28) 27.01.86

COACH
Eduardo **BERIZZO** (Arg) (45) 13.11.69

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS
13 Jordi **CODINA** (32) 27.04.82
25 Vicente **GUAITA** (27) 18.02.87
1 Jonathan **LOPEZ** (33) 16.04.81

DEFENDERS
2 **ALEXIS** (29) 04.08.85
12 Alvaro **ARROYO** (26) 22.07.88
18 Sergio **ESCUDERO** (25) 02.09.89
3 Roberto **LAGO** (29) 30.08.85
5 **NALDO** (Bra) (26) 25.08.88
20 Juan **VALERA** (29) 21.12.84
4 Emiliano **VELAZQUEZ** (Uru) (20) 30.04.94
27 Carlos **VIGARAY** (20) 07.09.94

MIDFIELDERS
29 Pedro **ASTRAY** (22) 18.03.92
17 Diego **CASTRO** (32) 02.07.82
21 Michel **HERRERO** (26) 29.07.88
23 Freddy **HINESTROZA** (Col) (24) 05.04.90
8 Mehdi **LACEN** (Alg) (30) 15.03.84
7 Angel **LAFITA** (30) 07.08.84
22 Juan **RODRIGUEZ** (32) 01.04.82
6 **SAMMIR** (Cro) (27) 23.04.87
10 Pablo **SARABIA** (22) 11.05.92

FORWARDS
15 Baba **DIAWARA** (Sen) (26) 05.01.88
9 Alvaro **VAZQUEZ** (23) 27.04.91

COACH
Cosmin **CONTRA** (Rom) (38) 15.12.75

GRANADA

GOALKEEPERS
35 Stole **DIMITRIEVSKI** (Mac) (20) 23.12.93
1 Oier **OLAZABAL** (25) 14.09.89
13 **ROBERTO** Fernandez (35) 25.01.79

DEFENDERS
6 Jean-Sylvain **BABIN** (Mar) (28) 14.10.86
22 Dimitri **FOULQUIER** (Fra) (21) 23.03.93
5 Diego **MAINZ** (31) 29.12.82
3 Luis **MARTINS** (Por) (22) 10.06.92
24 Jeison **MURILLO** (Col) (22) 27.05.92
12 Dany **NOUNKEU** (Cam) (28) 11.04.86
2 Allan **NYOM** (Cam) (26) 10.05.88

MIDFIELDERS
20 Juan **CARLOS** (24) 30.03.90
16 Manuel **ITURRA** (Chl) (30) 23.06.84
19 Daniel **LARSSON** (Swe) (27) 25.01.87
8 Javi **MARQUEZ** (28) 11.05.86
26 Sulayman **MARREH** (Gam) (18) 15.01.96
10 **PITI** (33) 26.05.81
4 Fran **RICO** (27) 03.08.87
14 Eddy **SILVESTRE** (22) 02.08.92
17 Abdou **SISSOKO** (Fra) (24) 20.03.90
7 Hector **YUSTE** (26) 12.01.88

FORWARDS
18 Jhon **CORDOBA** (Col) (21) 10.05.93
9 Youssef **EL ARABI** (Mor) (27) 03.02.87
27 Darwin **MACHIS** (Ven) (21) 07.02.93
21 Alfredo **ORTUNO** (23) 21.01.91
11 **RIKI** (34) 11.08.80
23 Ruben **ROCHINA** (23) 23.03.91
29 Isaac **SUCCESS** (Nga) (18) 07.01.96

COACH
Joaquin **CAPARROS** (59) 15.10.55

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jesus **FERNANDEZ** (26) 11.06.88
13 Diego **MARINO** (24) 09.05.90

DEFENDERS
16 Issam **EL ADOUA** (Mor) (27) 09.12.86
12 **JUANFRAN** (38) 15.07.76
15 Nikos **KARABELAS** (Gre) (29) 20.12.84
2 Ivan **LOPEZ** (21) 23.08.93
19 Pedro **LOPEZ** (31) 01.01.83
4 David **NAVARRO** (34) 25.05.80
5 Hector **RODAS** (26) 07.03.88
3 **TONO** (25) 07.11.89
6 Loukas **VYNTRA** (Gre) (33) 05.02.81

MIDFIELDERS
26 Victor **CAMARASA** (20) 28.05.94
23 Papakouli **DIOP** (Sen) (28) 19.03.86
8 Nabil **EL ZHAR** (Mor) (28) 27.08.86
10 Ruben **GARCIA** (21) 14.07.93
14 Jaime **GAVILAN** (29) 12.05.85
24 Simao **JUNIOR** (Moz) (26) 23.07.88
11 Jose Luis **MORALES** (27) 23.07.87
20 Victor **PEREZ** (26) 12.01.88
22 Mohamed **SISSOKO** (Mli) (29) 22.01.85
17 Jordi **XUMETRA** (29) 24.10.85

FORWARDS
7 David **BARRAL** (31) 10.05.83
18 Victor **CASADESUS** (29) 28.02.85
21 Andreas **IVANSCHITZ** (Aut) (31) 15.10.83
9 Rafael **MARTINS** (Bra) (25) 17.03.89

COACH
Lucas **ALCARAZ** (48) 21.06.66

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS
27 Agustin **COUSILLAS** (Arg) (24) 19.04.90
1 Carlos **KAMENI** (Cam) (30) 18.02.84
13 Guillermo **OCHOA** (Mex) (29) 13.07.85

DEFENDERS
15 Marcos **ANGELERI** (Arg) (31) 07.04.83
5 Vitorino **ANTUNES** (Por) (27) 01.04.87
19 Arthur **BOKA** (IvC) (31) 02.04.83
20 Jose Manuel **CASADO** (28) 09.08.86
4 Flavio **FERREIRA** (Por) (23) 19.10.91
31 Ivan **RODRIGUEZ** (18) 30.04.96
18 Roberto **ROSALES** (Ven) (26) 20.11.88
21 Sergio **SANCHEZ** (28) 03.04.86
23 Miguel **TORRES** (28) 28.01.86
3 **WELIGTON** (Bra) (35) 26.08.79

MIDFIELDERS
22 Luis **ALBERTO** (22) 28.09.92
2 Nordin **AMRABAT** (Mor) (27) 31.03.87
6 Ignacio **CAMACHO** (24) 04.05.90
30 Sergi **DARDER** (20) 22.12.93
17 **DUDA** (Por) (34) 27.06.80
11 Pablo **PEREZ** (Arg) (29) 10.08.85
14 **RECIO** (23) 11.01.91
12 Fernando **TISSONE** (Arg) (28) 24.07.86

FORWARDS
29 Samu **CASTILLEJO** (19) 18.01.95
7 Samu **GARCIA** (24) 13.07.90
10 Ricardo **HORTA** (Por) (20) 15.09.94
26 **JUANMI** (21) 20.05.93
28 **JUANPI** (Ven) (20) 24.01.94
8 Francisco **PORTILLO** (24) 13.06.90
16 Ezequiel **RESCALDANI** (Arg) (22) 11.06.92
9 Roque **SANTA CRUZ** (Par) (33) 16.08.81

COACH
Javi **GRACIA** (44) 01.05.70

RAYO VALLECANO

GOALKEEPERS
13 Cristian **ALVAREZ** (Arg) (29) 13.11.85
1 David **COBENO** (32) 06.04.82
25 **TONO** (34) 17.12.79

DEFENDERS
4 Antonio **AMAYA** (31) 31.05.83
15 Abdoulaye **BA** (Sen) (23) 01.01.91
14 Emiliano **INSUA** (Arg) (25) 07.01.89
17 Quini **MARIN** (25) 24.09.89
3 Nacho **MARTINEZ** (25) 07.03.89
20 Jorge **MORCILLO** (28) 11.03.86
2 **TITO** (29) 11.07.85
18 **ZE CASTRO** (Por) (31) 13.01.83

MIDFIELDERS
16 Javier **AQUINO** (Mex) (24) 11.02.90
8 Raul **BAENA** (25) 02.03.89
7 Alhassane **BANGOURA** (Gui) (22) 30.03.92
29 Adri **EMBARBA** (22) 07.05.92
6 Mohammed **FATAU** (Gha) (24) 25.04.90
21 **JOZABED** (23) 08.03.91
22 **LICA** (Por) (26) 08.09.88
27 Alex **MORENO** (21) 06.08.93
10 Roberto **TRASHORRAS** (33) 28.02.81

FORWARDS
19 Leo **BAPTISTAO** (Bra) (22) 26.08.92
23 Alberto **BUENO** (26) 20.03.88
12 Gael **KAKUTA** (Fra) (23) 21.06.91
9 **MANUCHO** (Ang) (31) 07.03.83
11 Jonathan **PEREIRA** (27) 12.05.87
24 Alejandro **POZUELO** (23) 20.09.91

COACH
Paco **JEMEZ** (44) 18.04.70

(ages as of 28.11.14)

CORDOBA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Juan **CARLOS**	(26) 20.01.88
13	Mikel **SAIZAR**	(31) 18.01.83

DEFENDERS

4	Iago **BOUZON**	(31) 01.01.83
33	Edu **CAMPABADAL**	(21) 26.01.93
3	Jose Angel **CRESPO**	(27) 09.02.87
15	**DEIVID**	(25) 27.01.89
17	Adrian **GUNINO** (Uru)	(25) 03.02.89
12	Inigo **LOPEZ**	(32) 23.07.82
2	Aleksandar **PANTIC** (Ser)	(22) 11.04.92
29	Daniel **PINILLOS**	(22) 22.10.92

MIDFIELDERS

23	**ABEL**	(32) 20.02.82
21	Carlos **CABALLERO**	(30) 05.10.84
11	Jose **CARLOS**	(27) 17.07.87
10	Fede **CARTABIA** (Arg)	(21) 20.01.93
5	Patrick **EKENG** (Cam)	(24) 26.03.90
16	**FIDEL**	(25) 27.10.89
18	Borja **GARCIA**	(24) 02.11.90
22	Aritz **LOPEZ GARAI**	(34) 06.11.80
19	Jose **LOPEZ SILVA**	(31) 02.01.83
6	**LUSO**	(29) 04.12.84
7	Fausto **ROSSI** (Ita)	(23) 03.12.90
35	Fede **VICO**	(20) 04.07.94

FORWARDS

14	Nabil **GHILAS** (Alg)	(24) 20.04.90
24	Mike **HAVENAAR** (Jap)	(27) 20.05.87
20	Ryder **MATOS** (Bra)	(21) 27.02.93
9	**XISCO**	(28) 27.06.86

COACH

Miroslav **DJUKIC** (Ser)	(48) 19.02.66

DEPORTIVO

GOALKEEPERS

13	**FABRICIO** Agosto	(26) 31.12.87
1	German **LUX** (Arg)	(32) 06.07.82

DEFENDERS

3	Roberto **CANELLA**	(26) 07.02.88
21	Modibo **DIAKITE** (Fra)	(27) 02.03.87
5	Pablo **INSUA**	(21) 09.09.93
15	**LAURE**	(29) 22.03.85
27	Iago **LOPEZ**	(22) 03.09.92
23	Alberto **LOPO**	(34) 05.05.80
16	**LUISINHO** (Por)	(29) 05.05.85
2	Manuel **PABLO**	(38) 25.01.76
22	Diego **SEOANE**	(26) 26.04.88
12	**SIDNEI** (Bra)	(25) 23.08.89

MIDFIELDERS

4	Alex **BERGANTINOS**	(29) 07.06.85
25	Juan **CARLOS**	(23) 15.03.91
19	Ivan **CAVALEIRO** (Por)	(21) 18.10.93
14	Isaac **CUENCA**	(23) 27.04.91
10	Juan **DOMINGUEZ**	(24) 08.01.90
24	Luis **FARINA** (Arg)	(23) 20.04.91
11	**JUANFRAN** Moreno	(26) 11.09.88
7	**LUCAS** Perez	(26) 10.09.88
8	Haris **MEDUNJANIN** (Bos)	(29) 08.03.85
28	Marcos **REMESEIRO**	(22) 21.07.92
6	Jose **RODRIGUEZ**	(19) 16.12.94
17	Diogo **SALOMAO** (Por)	(26) 14.09.88
20	Cezary **WILK** (Pol)	(28) 12.02.86

FORWARDS

9	Helder **POSTIGA** (Por)	(32) 02.08.82
18	**TOCHE**	(31) 01.01.83

COACH

Victor **FERNANDEZ**	(54) 28.11.60

EIBAR

GOALKEEPERS

1	Xabi **IRURETAGOIENA**	(28) 21.03.86
25	Jaime **JIMENEZ**	(33) 10.12.80
13	**TXUSTA**	(28) 30.04.86

DEFENDERS

6	Raul **ALBENTOSA**	(26) 07.09.88
4	Txema **ANIBARRO**	(35) 26.07.79
2	Eneko **BOVEDA**	(25) 14.12.88
5	Borja **EKIZA**	(26) 06.03.88
16	**LILLO**	(25) 27.03.89
24	Abraham **MINERO**	(28) 22.02.86
22	Raul **NAVAS**	(26) 11.05.88
17	Didac **VILA**	(25) 09.06.89

MIDFIELDERS

18	Derek **BOATENG** (Gha)	(31) 02.05.83
7	Ander **CAPA**	(22) 14.05.92
8	Jon **ERRASTI**	(26) 06.06.88
14	Dani **GARCIA**	(24) 24.05.90
23	Javi **LARA**	(28) 04.12.85
11	Dani **NIETO**	(23) 04.05.91

FORWARDS

10	Mikel **ARRUABARRENA**	(31) 09.02.83
21	Saul **BERJON**	(28) 24.05.86
20	Manu **DEL MORAL**	(30) 25.02.84
15	Dejan **LEKIC** (Ser)	(29) 07.06.85
19	Federico **PIOVACCARI** (Ita)	(30) 01.09.84
9	Angel **RODRIGUEZ**	(27) 26.04.87

COACH

Gaizka **GARITANO**	(39) 09.07.75

ELCHE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Manu **HERRERA**	(33) 29.09.81
25	Przemyslaw **TYTON** (Pol)	(27) 04.01.87

DEFENDERS

21	Edu **ALBACAR**	(35) 16.11.79
14	Jose **ANGEL**	(25) 02.03.89
5	Domingo **CISMA**	(32) 09.02.82
4	David **LOMBAN**	(27) 05.06.87
18	Sergio **PELEGRIN**	(35) 18.04.79
3	Enzo **ROCO** (Chl)	(22) 16.08.92
2	Damian **SUAREZ** (Uru)	(26) 27.04.88

MIDFIELDERS

23	Michael **ANABA** (Gha)	(20) 30.12.93
20	Faycal **FAJR** (Fra)	(26) 01.08.88
8	Adrian **GONZALEZ**	(26) 25.05.88
32	Samu **MARTINEZ**	(20) 15.04.94
6	Pedro **MOSQUERA**	(26) 21.04.88
24	Mario **PASALIC** (Cro)	(19) 09.02.95
11	Garry **RODRIGUES** (Hol)	(24) 27.11.90

FORWARDS

10	Ferran **COROMINAS**	(31) 05.01.83
19	Alvaro **GIMENEZ**	(23) 19.05.91
9	Cristian **HERRERA**	(23) 13.03.91
22	**JONATHAS** (Bra)	(25) 06.03.89
7	Aaron **NIGUEZ**	(25) 26.04.89
17	Victor **RODRIGUEZ**	(25) 23.07.89

COACH

Fran **ESCRIBA**	(49) 03.05.65

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS

13	Kiko **CASILLA**	(28) 02.10.86
25	Pau **LOPEZ**	(19) 13.12.94
1	German **PARRENO**	(21) 16.02.93

DEFENDERS

5	Victor **ALVAREZ**	(21) 14.03.93
23	Anaitz **ARBILLA**	(27) 15.05.87
19	Diego **COLOTTO** (Arg)	(33) 03.10.81
18	Juan **FUENTES**	(24) 05.01.90
22	Alvaro **GONZALEZ**	(24) 08.01.90
16	Javi **LOPEZ**	(28) 21.01.86
2	Felipe **MATTIONI** (Bra)	(26) 15.10.88
15	Hector **MORENO** (Mex)	(26) 17.01.88
3	Raul **RODRIGUEZ**	(27) 22.09.87

MIDFIELDERS

14	Jose **CANAS**	(27) 27.05.87
12	Carlos **CLERC**	(22) 21.02.92
7	Alex **FERNANDEZ**	(22) 15.10.92
10	Abraham **GONZALEZ**	(29) 16.07.85
28	Joan **JORDAN**	(21) 06.07.93
11	Manu **LANZAROTE**	(30) 20.01.84
24	Paco **MONTANES**	(28) 08.10.86
4	Victor **SANCHEZ**	(27) 08.09.87
6	Salva **SEVILLA**	(30) 18.03.84
17	Lucas **VAZQUEZ**	(23) 01.07.91

FORWARDS

20	Felipe **CAICEDO** (Ecu)	(26) 05.09.88
9	Sergio **GARCIA**	(31) 09.06.83
29	Jairo **MORILLAS**	(21) 02.07.93
8	Christian **STUANI** (Uru)	(28) 12.10.86

COACH

Sergio **GONZALEZ**	(38) 10.11.76

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1	Iker **CASILLAS**	(33) 20.05.81
13	Keylor **NAVAS** (CR)	(27) 15.12.86
25	Fernando **PACHECO**	(22) 18.05.92

DEFENDERS

17	Alvaro **ARBELOA**	(31) 17.01.83
15	Daniel **CARVAJAL**	(22) 11.01.92
5	Fabio **COENTRAO** (Por)	(26) 11.03.88
12	**MARCELO** (Bra)	(26) 12.05.88
18	**NACHO** Fernandez	(24) 18.01.90
3	**PEPE** (Por)	(31) 26.02.83
4	Sergio **RAMOS**	(28) 30.03.86
2	Raphael **VARANE** (Fra)	(21) 25.04.93

MIDFIELDERS

11	Gareth **BALE** (Wal)	(25) 16.07.89
24	Asier **ILLARRAMENDI**	(24) 08.03.90
23	**ISCO**	(22) 21.04.92
6	Sami **KHEDIRA** (Ger)	(27) 04.04.87
8	Toni **KROOS** (Ger)	(24) 04.01.90
19	Luka **MODRIC** (Cro)	(29) 09.09.85
10	James **RODRIGUEZ** (Col)	(23) 12.07.91

FORWARDS

9	Karim **BENZEMA** (Fra)	(26) 19.12.87
14	Javier **HERNANDEZ** (Mex)	(26) 01.06.88
20	**JESE**	(21) 26.02.93
7	Cristiano **RONALDO** (Por)	(29) 05.02.85

COACH

Carlo **ANCELOTTI** (Ita)	(55) 10.06.59

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS

31	Ander **BARDAJI**	(19) 03.05.95
1	Geronimo **RULLI** (Arg)	(22) 20.05.92
13	Enaut **ZUBIKARAI**	(30) 26.02.84

DEFENDERS

15	Ion **ANSOTEGI**	(32) 13.07.82
19	Yuri **BERCHICHE**	(24) 10.02.90
24	Alberto **DE LA BELLA**	(28) 02.12.85
22	Dani **ESTRADA**	(27) 03.01.87
23	Jon **GAZTANAGA**	(23) 28.06.91
3	Mikel **GONZALEZ**	(29) 24.09.85
2	Carlos **MARTINEZ**	(28) 09.04.86
6	Inigo **MARTINEZ**	(23) 17.05.91
20	Joseba **ZALDUA**	(22) 24.06.92

MIDFIELDERS

5	Markel **BERGARA**	(28) 05.05.86
16	Sergio **CANALES**	(23) 16.02.91
4	Gorka **ELUSTONDO**	(27) 18.03.87
8	Esteban **GRANERO**	(27) 02.07.87
14	Ruben **PARDO**	(22) 22.10.92
10	Xabi **PRIETO**	(31) 29.08.83
17	David **ZURUTUZA**	(28) 19.07.86

FORWARDS

9	Imanol **AGIRRETXE**	(27) 24.02.87
18	Gonzalo **CASTRO** (Uru)	(30) 14.09.84
7	Alfred **FINNBOGASON** (Ice)	(25) 01.02.89
11	Carlos **VELA** (Mex)	(25) 01.03.89

COACH

Jagoba **ARRASATE**	(36) 22.04.78

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Mariano **BARBOSA** (Arg)	(30) 27.07.84
13	**BETO** (Por)	(32) 01.05.82
29	Sergio **RICO**	(21) 01.09.93

DEFENDERS

24	Alejandro **ARRIBAS**	(25) 01.05.89
11	**CICINHO** (Bra)	(28) 04.08.86
23	**COKE**	(27) 26.04.87
5	Diogo **FIGUEIRAS** (Bra)	(23) 01.07.91
15	Timothee **KOLODZIEJCZAK** (Fra)	(23) 01.10.91
3	Fernando **NAVARRO**	(32) 25.06.82
21	Nicolas **PAREJA** (Arg)	(30) 19.01.84
2	Benoit **TREMOULINAS** (Fra)	(28) 28.12.85

MIDFIELDERS

19	Ever **BANEGA** (Arg)	(26) 29.06.88
6	Daniel **CARRICO** (Por)	(26) 04.08.88
8	Sebastian **CRISTOFORO** (Uru)	(21) 23.08.93
12	Vicente **IBORRA**	(36) 16.01.88
4	Grzegorz **KRYCHOWIAK** (Pol)	(24) 29.01.90
26	**LUISMI**	(22) 05.05.92
25	Stephane **MBIA** (Cam)	(28) 20.05.86
17	Denis **SUAREZ**	(20) 06.01.94
22	Aleix **VIDAL**	(25) 21.08.89
20	**VITOLO**	(25) 02.11.89

FORWARDS

14	Iago **ASPAS**	(27) 11.08.87
9	Carlos **BACCA** (Col)	(28) 08.09.86
18	Gerard **DEULOFEU**	(20) 13.03.94
7	Kevin **GAMEIRO** (Fra)	(27) 09.04.87
10	Jose Antonio **REYES**	(31) 01.09.83

COACH

Unai **EMERY**	(43) 03.11.71

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Diego **ALVES** (Bra)	(29) 24.06.85
13	**YOEL**	(26) 28.08.88

DEFENDERS

19	Antonio **BARRAGAN**	(27) 12.06.87
2	Joao **CANCELO** (Por)	(20) 27.05.94
31	Jose **GAYA**	(19) 25.05.95
5	Shkodran **MUSTAFI** (Ger)	(22) 17.04.92
6	Lucas **ORBAN** (Arg)	(25) 03.02.89
23	Nicolas **OTAMENDI** (Arg)	(26) 12.02.88
12	Joao **PEREIRA** (Por)	(30) 25.02.84
3	Ruben **VEZO** (Por)	(20) 25.04.94

MIDFIELDERS

4	Filipe **AUGUSTO** (Bra)	(21) 12.08.93
20	Rodrigo **DE PAUL** (Arg)	(20) 24.05.94
8	Sofiane **FEGHOULI** (Alg)	(24) 26.12.89
18	Javi **FUEGO**	(30) 04.01.84
22	Carles **GIL**	(22) 22.11.92
21	Andre **GOMES** (Por)	(21) 30.07.93
27	Robert **IBANEZ**	(21) 22.03.93
10	Dani **PAREJO**	(25) 16.04.89
11	Pablo **PIATTI** (Arg)	(25) 31.03.89
16	Bruno **ZUCULINI** (Arg)	(21) 02.04.93

FORWARDS

9	Paco **ALCACER**	(21) 30.08.93
7	Alvaro **NEGREDO**	(29) 20.08.85
17	**RODRIGO**	(23) 06.03.91

COACH

NUNO	(40) 25.01.74

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS

1	Sergio **ASENJO**	(25) 28.06.89
25	Juan **CARLOS**	(27) 27.07.87

DEFENDERS

18	Jaume **COSTA**	(26) 18.03.88
16	Jose Antonio **DORADO**	(32) 10.07.82
2	Mario **GASPAR**	(24) 24.11.90
3	Bojan **JOKIC** (Sln)	(28) 17.05.86
28	Adrian **MARIN**	(17) 09.01.97
5	Mateo **MUSACCHIO** (Arg)	(24) 26.08.90
20	Gabriel **PAULISTA** (Bra)	(24) 26.11.90
30	Israel **PUERTO**	(21) 15.06.93
15	Víctor **RUIZ**	(25) 25.01.89
22	Antonio **RUKAVINA** (Ser)	(30) 26.01.84

MIDFIELDERS

21	**BRUNO** Soriano	(30) 12.06.84
10	**CANI**	(33) 03.08.81
17	Denis **CHERYSHEV** (Rus)	(23) 26.12.90
6	Jonathan **DOS SANTOS** (Mex)	(24) 26.04.90
24	Javi **ESPINOSA**	(22) 19.09.92
11	Hernan **PEREZ** (Par)	(25) 25.02.89
19	Moi **GOMEZ**	(20) 23.06.94
4	Tomas **PINA**	(27) 14.10.87
14	Manu **TRIGUEROS**	(23) 17.10.91

FORWARDS

9	Giovani **DOS SANTOS** (Mex)	(25) 11.05.89
27	Nahuel **LEIVA**	(18) 22.10.96
23	Gerard **MORENO**	(22) 07.04.92
8	Ikechukwu **UCHE** (Nga)	(30) 05.01.84
7	Luciano **VIETTO** (Arg)	(21) 05.12.93

COACH

MARCELINO	(48) 14.08.65

World Soccer's GREAT TEAMS

Italy 1982

With the domestic game in disgrace, Enzo Bearzot's side travelled to Spain and restored a country's pride

Redemption...Italy line-up before the World Cup Final against West Germany at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid

Italy went into the 1982 World Cup in Spain on the back of a match-fixing scandal that led to several arrests and Milan and Lazio being relegated to Serie B.

Paolo Rossi, the most high profile of those arrested, was given a three-year ban, which was reduced by 12 months to allow him to play in the finals.

The tournament was the first to feature 24 teams and was played in two group stages before the winners of the second phase contested the semi-finals.

With three draws in their first-round group – against Poland, Peru and Cameroon – there was little indication of what was to come from Enzo Bearzot's team.

But in the second phase the sterile Italians began to play. The midfield pairing of Giancarlo Antognoli and Bruno Conti became more expressive and, having beaten Argentina 2-1, a Rossi hat-trick saw off Brazil 3-2 in one of the World Cup's greatest-ever games.

Keir Radnedge reported in the August 1982 edition of *World Soccer*: "Brazil had been everybody's favourites. Yet on this marvellous afternoon they were matched and eventually outmanoeuvred by an Italian side who discovered they could meet the ultimate challenge."

After two more Rossi goals beat Poland in the semi-finals, the first half of the Final against West Germany was goalless. But inspired by the outstanding Conti, Italy scored three times after the break – through Rossi, Marco Tardelli and substitute Alessandro Altobelli – to win 3-1 and secure their first world title since 1938.

Radnedge added: "No one can say Italy did not deserve to win the cup. To beat the holders [Argentina], then the favourites [Brazil], then the champions of Europe [West Germany] says it all; that is the achievement of world champions." WS

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Enzo Bearzot

A centre-back who was capped just once, he coached Serie C club Prato before taking charge of Italy's under-23 side in 1969. An assistant to Ferruccio Valcareggi at the 1974 World Cup, he was appointed national coach in 1975. He lead the team to fourth place at the 1978 World Cup, a home European Championship in 1980 and the 1982 triumph. He stood down after the 1986 World Cup.

Tactics

Gentile, who appeared at right-back earlier in the tournament, was assigned to track Pierre Littbarski's every move in the Final. Oriali played the holding role in midfield with Tardelli just in front of him. Conti was given the playmaker's job and Graziani – who was replaced by Alessandro Altobelli early on – started wide on the left with licence to drift inside behind Rossi in attack.

THE STARTING XI

Dino Zoff
Goalkeeper
Italy's captain and the oldest goalkeeper, at the age of 40, ever to win the World Cup.

Gaetano Scirea
Sweeper
One of the greats, he kept a young Franco Baresi on the bench. Killed in a car crash in Poland, aged 36.

Giuseppe Bergomi
Right-back
An 18-year-old in the 1982 Final, he would go on to play in a further three World Cups.

Fulvio Collovati
Centre-back
Scored three times in 50 games for Italy. Now works as an analyst for television network RAI.

Claudio Gentile
Centre-back
Kept Maradona at bay in the second group stage, telling him: "Football's not for ballerinas."

Antonio Cabrini
Left-back
An attacking full-back whose penalty miss in the Final did not detract from his performance.

Gabriele Oriali
Midfielder
Another exceptional man-marker who was capped 28 times for his country.

Marco Tardelli
Midfielder
All-action midfielder who is famous for his celebration after scoring the second goal in the Final.

Bruno Conti
Midfielder
Took the playmaker's role at the finals and created the second and third goals in the Final.

Francesco Graziani
Winger
Scored 23 goals in 64 games for Italy, but was injured after just seven minutes in the Final.

Paolo Rossi
Forward
Went into the tournament amid huge controversy but returned home a national hero.

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